

INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

Christ has called us to this place,
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

**We are followers of Christ
who seek to hear the Word,
live the Word, and share the Word.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN (CHOIR)

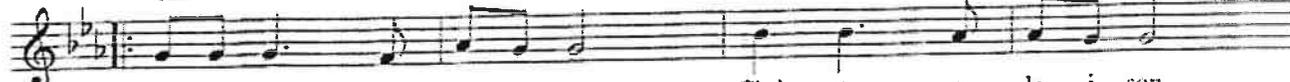
KYRIE

Assisting Minister



In... peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

*To Bids
Last time to Conclusion*

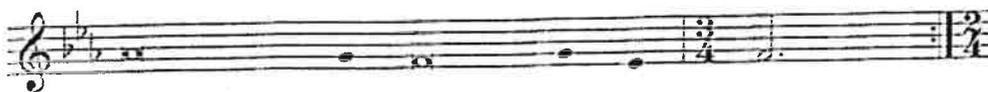


Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

*Assisting Minister
freely*



1. For peace be - tween nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the
2. For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and
3. For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, a



healing of cre - ation,
all who long for God, let us pray.
bandoned or a - fraid,

Conclusion

Assisting Minister

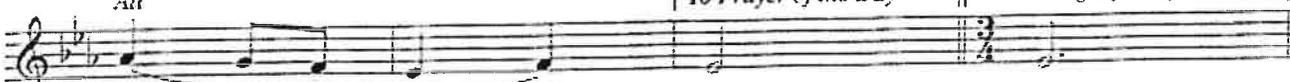


Help, save, com - fort and de - fend us, O God.

All

To Prayer of the Day

To Evening Hymn of Praise



A - - - - - men. men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar,
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
 a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
 'Where is their God?' "

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³ Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be re-stored to you.

¹⁴ **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶ **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

² For he says,

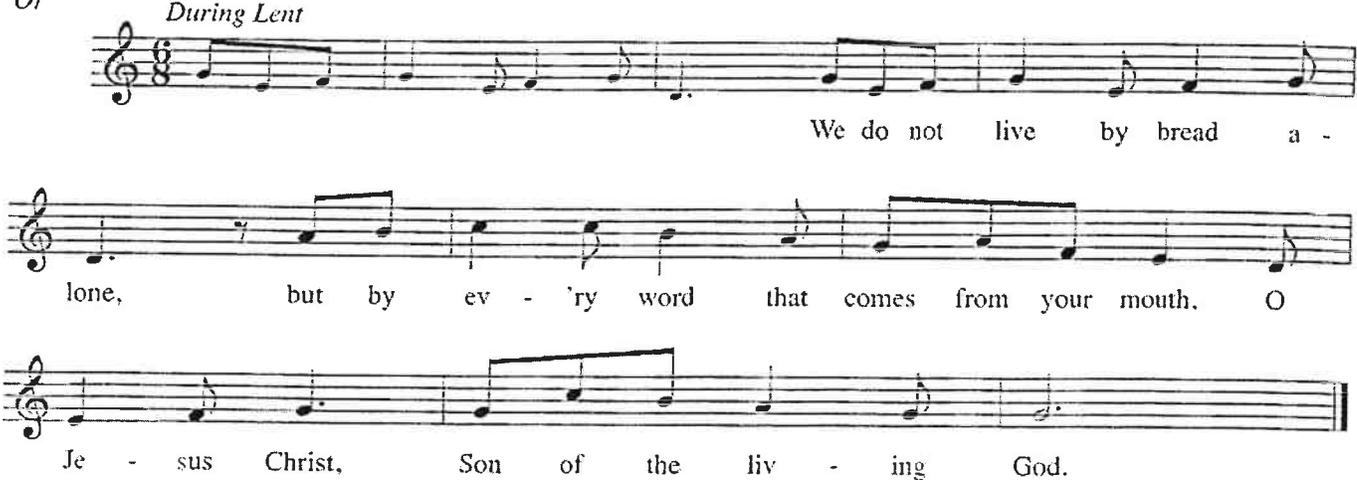
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Or
During Lent



We do not live by bread a -
lone, but by ev - 'ry word that comes from your mouth, O
Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.
Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pr. Luke

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

1 All things of dust to dust return
on earth and in the sky.
The hottest, brightest suns that burn
in time grow dim and die.
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
the newborn young that play,
the leaves that fill the forest floor
revert to dust and clay.

2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow
so I may comprehend
that ev'ry moment here and now
links me to that same end
I share with all that breathe and burn,
that flare and fade and tire
yet by their waning light discern
your own undying fire.

3 Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss,
and at the touch of dust and ash
awake my heart to view
how death itself is but a flash
that dies away in you.

INVITATION TO LENT (ELW p. 252)

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN (ELW p. 252)

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (ELW p. 254)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world (*places may be named*). Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for (*Martin Luther and*) all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING



SPECIAL MUSIC *Out of the Depths*

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through your abundant goodness, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

Presider The Lord be with you. *All* And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts. *All* We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise. *To Proper Preface*

PREFACE

It is in - deed right and good ev - 'ry - where and al - ways to
give you thanks and praise, Ho - ly God, might - y and im - mor - tal,
through your Son, Je - sus Christ, who calls us to return to you and live, for
you are gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger,
full of love, and faith - ful to your prom - is - es. And—
so with the Church on earth and the hosts of— heav - en we
To Holy, Holy
praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on six staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. A first ending bracket with an asterisk (*) spans the first two measures. The word "All" is written above the third measure. The lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord," are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics "God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are". The third staff changes to a 3/8 time signature and contains the lyrics "full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in — the". The fourth staff contains the lyrics "high - est. Bless - ed — is the One — who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,". The fifth staff contains the lyrics "comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na in the". The sixth staff concludes with the lyrics "high - est, ho - san - na in — the high - est."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in — the
high - est. Bless - ed — is the One — who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,
comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in — the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: LENT

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

I am not worthy to receive you Lord; but only say the Word and I shall be healed.

LAMB OF GOD

4 *All*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

1., 2.

world;— have mer - cy on us,—— have mer - cy on us.

3.

world; grant— us peace, grant— us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

from Unfailing Light

All

1. By your hand you feed your
2. In this meal we taste your
3. Send us now with faith and

peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav - en's bread; for these
sweet - ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace; ho - ly
cour - age to the hun - gry. lost, be - reaved. In our

gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

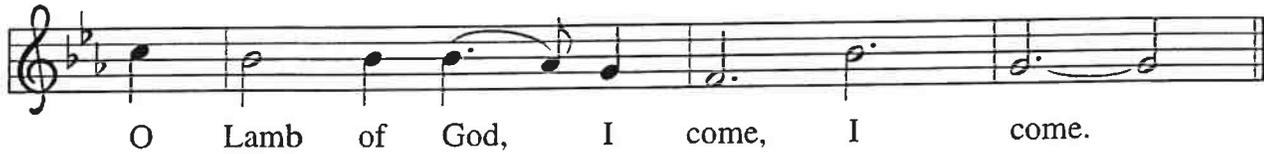
Christ's own bod - y,—— blessed and bro - ken,—— cup o'er - flow - ing, life out -

poured, giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry
shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

As you go on your way may Christ go with you,
May he go before you to show you the way;
May he go behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over,
Within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.



1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll
 2 All this earth; . . . could all that is
 3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing



ev - er find my way. I won - der if my
 lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den
 up from this old ground. . . Out of cha - os,



life could real - ly change at all.
 come up from this ground at all?
 life is be - ing found in you.

Refrain



You make beau-ti-ful things, you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.



You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau-ti -



ful things out of us.

Text: Michael Gungor, b. 1980, and Lisa Gungor, b. 1982
 Music: Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor
 Text and music © 2009 worshiptogether.com Songs, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com

BEAUTIFUL THINGS
 Irregular

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
 hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
 love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

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