



1650 W. Foster Ave. Chicago IL 60640
(773) 561-8496 † ebenezerchurch.org

Lent

February 14, 2024 † Ash Wednesday



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.

Masks are welcomed, especially for those who cannot be vaccinated or are at higher risk. Free masks are available from the ushers.



Ebenezer is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

Welcome.



This worship booklet is available in **LARGE PRINT** and may be **recycled** (in the baskets near the Welcome Center) or taken home. It is also online at ebenezerchurch.org.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the liturgy.



A **platform lift** is available to access the Sanctuary, Education Center, and Restrooms. Please see an usher for assistance.



Restrooms are located up the stairs under the model ship, or down the stairs on the west side of the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Children are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. A quiet play area is located in the narthex entry area.



Holy Communion, or the Eucharist, is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

Gathering

The assembly gathers in silence. * Omitted item at the noon liturgy

*Gathering Hymn

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God *Sing five times.*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a Leader part and an All part. The Leader part consists of a single melodic line. The All part consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: (no.) Come, bring your bur - dens; O come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens; O come, bring your bur - dens. bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for Je - sus will nev - er say no. Je - sus will nev - er say no.

text: South African
music: *Woza Nomthwalo Wakho* arr. Welile Sigobi

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, in love you breathed life into dust, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain.
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;
 the day of the Lord is coming near
 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.
Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with
mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast
love,
 and relents from punishing.

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?
Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her canopy.
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?'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-9

God, Be Merciful to Me



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me,
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess;
3 I am e - vil, born in sin;
4 Let my con - trite heart re - joice

on your grace I
grief and guilt my
you de - sire _____
and in glad - ness

rest my plea; wash me, make me pure with - in;
 soul op - press. I have sinned a - gainst your grace
 truth with - in. Make me pure, your mer - cy show;
 hear your voice; from my sins, O hide your face,

cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
 and pro - voked you to your face. God, be mer - ci -
 wash me whit - er than the snow.
 blot them out in bound - less grace.

ful to me, on your grace I rest my plea.

Words: *Psalter*, 1912, alt., P.D.

Music (GOD, BE MERCIFUL 7.7.7.7.7): Christopher Miner © 1998 Christopher Miner Music; arr. Eelco Vos

The Second Reading Second Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

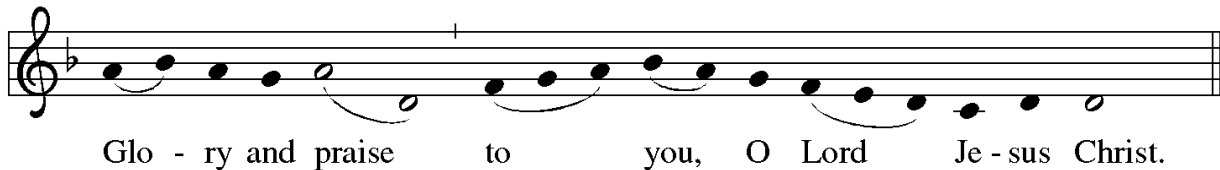
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
 and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Rise in body or spirit.

Welcoming the Gospel *The Cantor sings this acclamation, then all repeat it.*



The Gospel

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

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

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

Please be seated.

Invitation to Lent

Pastor Michael Fick *Rise in body or spirit.*

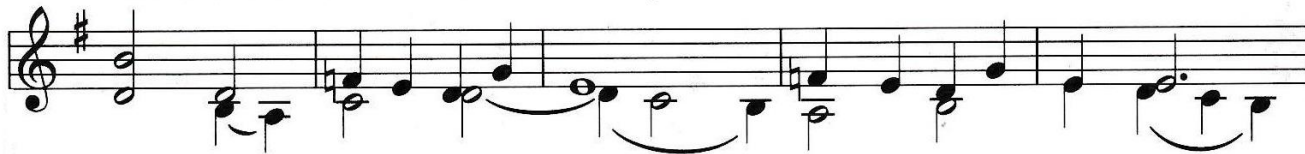
Hymn of the Day

Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face

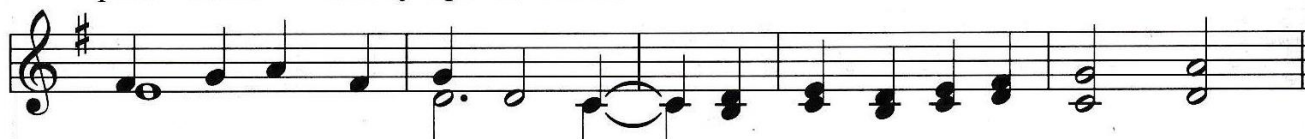
Unison



1 Dust and ash - es touch our face, mark our fail - ure and our
 2 Dust and ash - es soil our hands— greed of mar - ket, pride of
 3 Dust and ash - es choke our tongue in the waste-land of de -

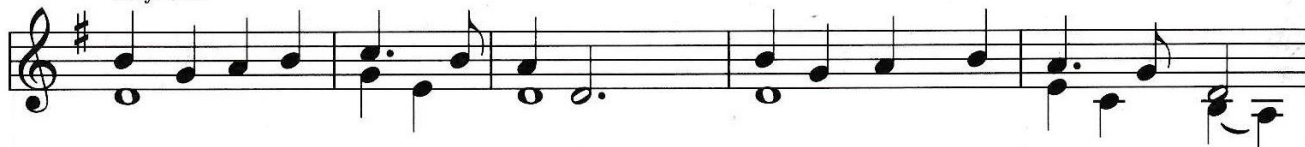


fall - ing. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row,
 na - tion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row
 pres - sion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row



take us as dis - ci - ples, washed and wak-ened by your call - ing.
 as we pray and strug-ple through the mesh-es of op - pres - sion.
 through all gloom and griev-ing to the paths of, res - ur - rec - tion.

Refrain



Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des - ert sands,



bring us liv-ing wa-ter, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Tune: DUST AND ASHES Irr. with refrain
 Hal H. Hopson, 1989

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

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 do we receive forgiveness; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

All who desire may come forward to receive ashes.

Please be seated.

***Anthem**

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

The Ebenezer Choir

Text by Thomas H. Troeger; music by John Elmquist

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.
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.

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.
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.
Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss.

*Hymn

Come Ye Disconsolate

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The music is in a common time signature (C) and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, with the first two lines of each stanza corresponding to the vocal line and the piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;
2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing

come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;
forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.

Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
"Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

Text: Thomas Moore, 1779–1852, sts. 1-2; Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, st. 3
Music: CONSOLATOR, Samuel Webbe Sr., 1740–1816



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
 3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
 4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
 All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
 We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
 no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
 We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
 Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
 I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
 the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
 your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
 tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite
 Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, attr. Martin Luther

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, forgives us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *The response after each intercession is: Hear our prayer.*

Meal

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

Share a sign of peace with those around you, being mindful about touch.

Check your neighbor's name tag:

A **yellow square** indicates a distanced elbow or fist bump is preferred.

A **red circle** indicates your neighbor prefers a verbal, distanced greeting only.



For members of the Ebenezer community, an offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.



Please be seated.

***Offertory**

O Son of God

The Ebenezer Choir

Text by John Dunne; music by John Elmquist

O Son of God, who seeing two things,
Sin, and death crept in,
which were never made,
By bearing one, tried'st with what stings
The other could thine heritage invade;
O be thou nailed unto my heart,

And crucified again,
Part not from it,
though it from thee would part,
But let it be by applying so thy pain,
Drowned in thy blood,
and in thy passion slain.

Rise in body or spirit.

***Offering Song**

Come to the Table of Mercy



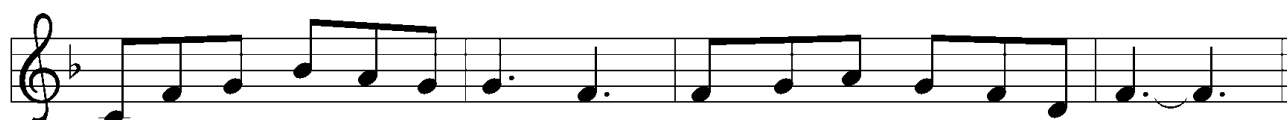
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

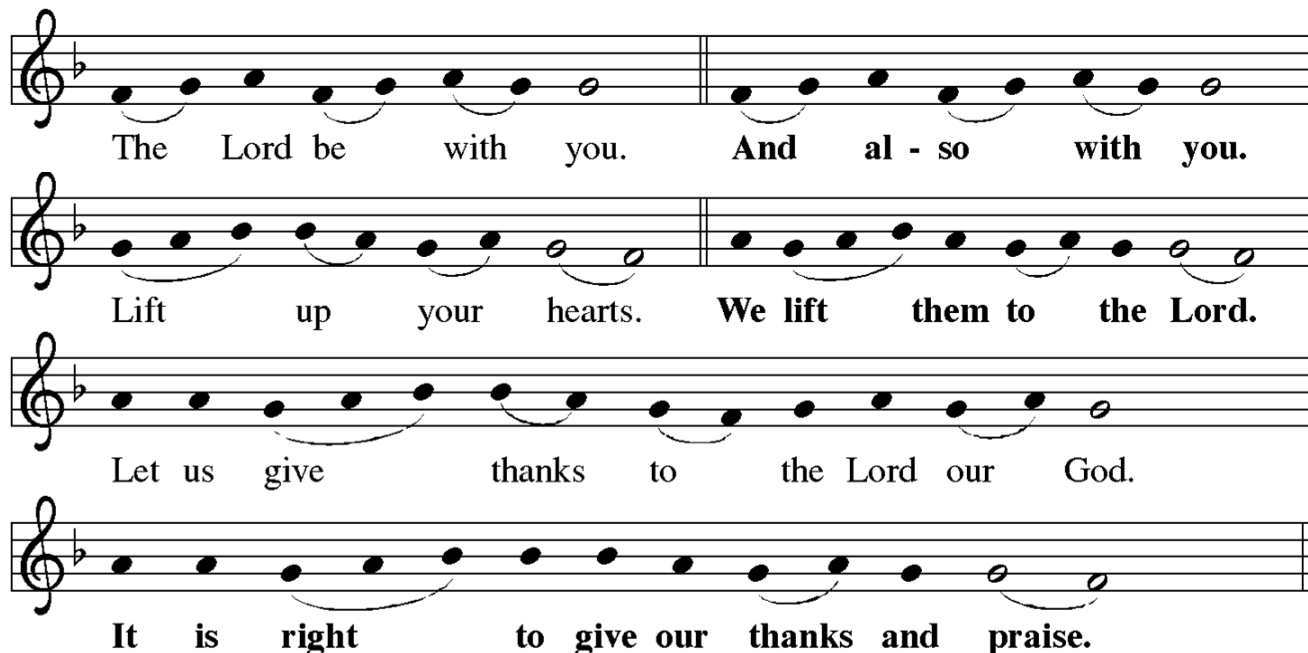
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

***Offering Prayer**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus, the wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

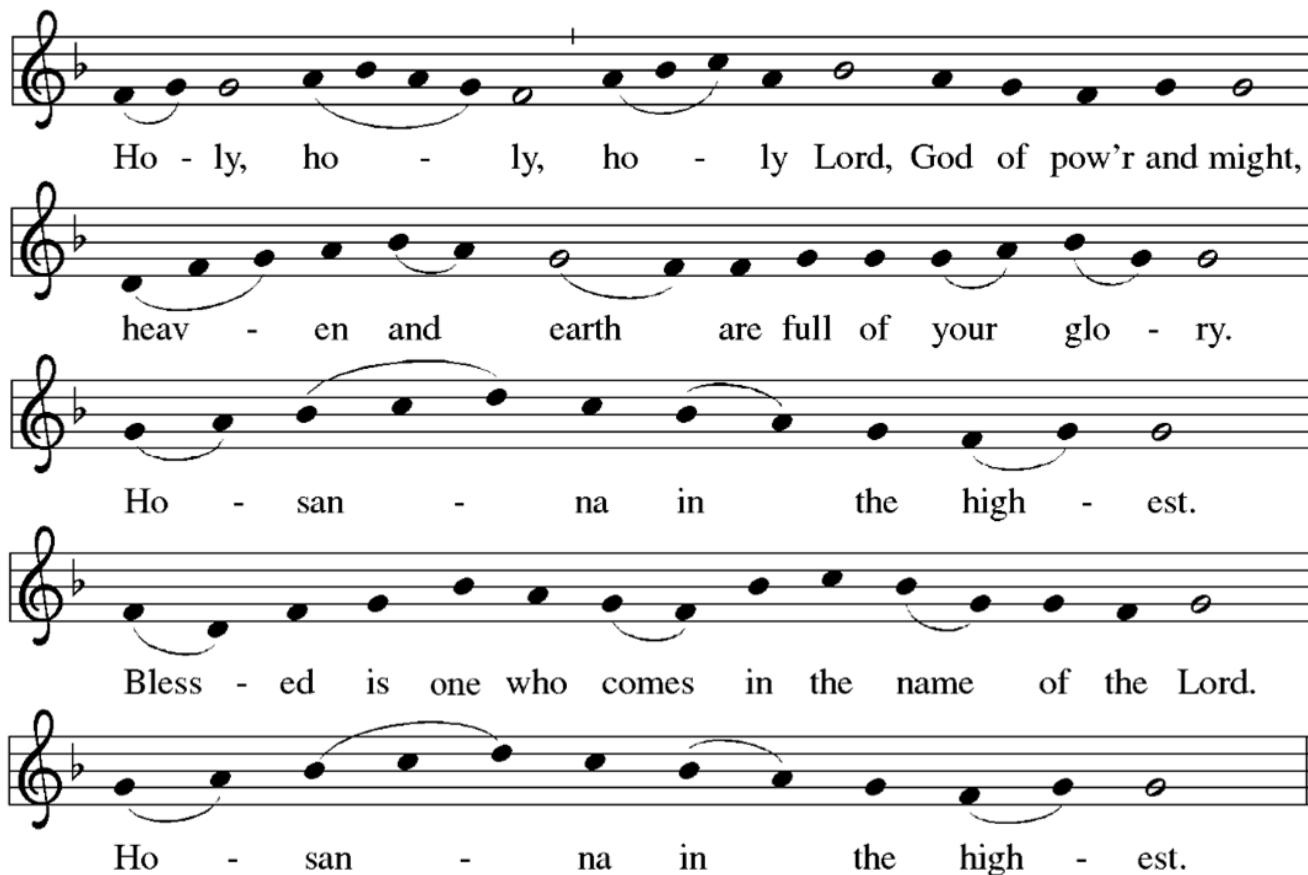
Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

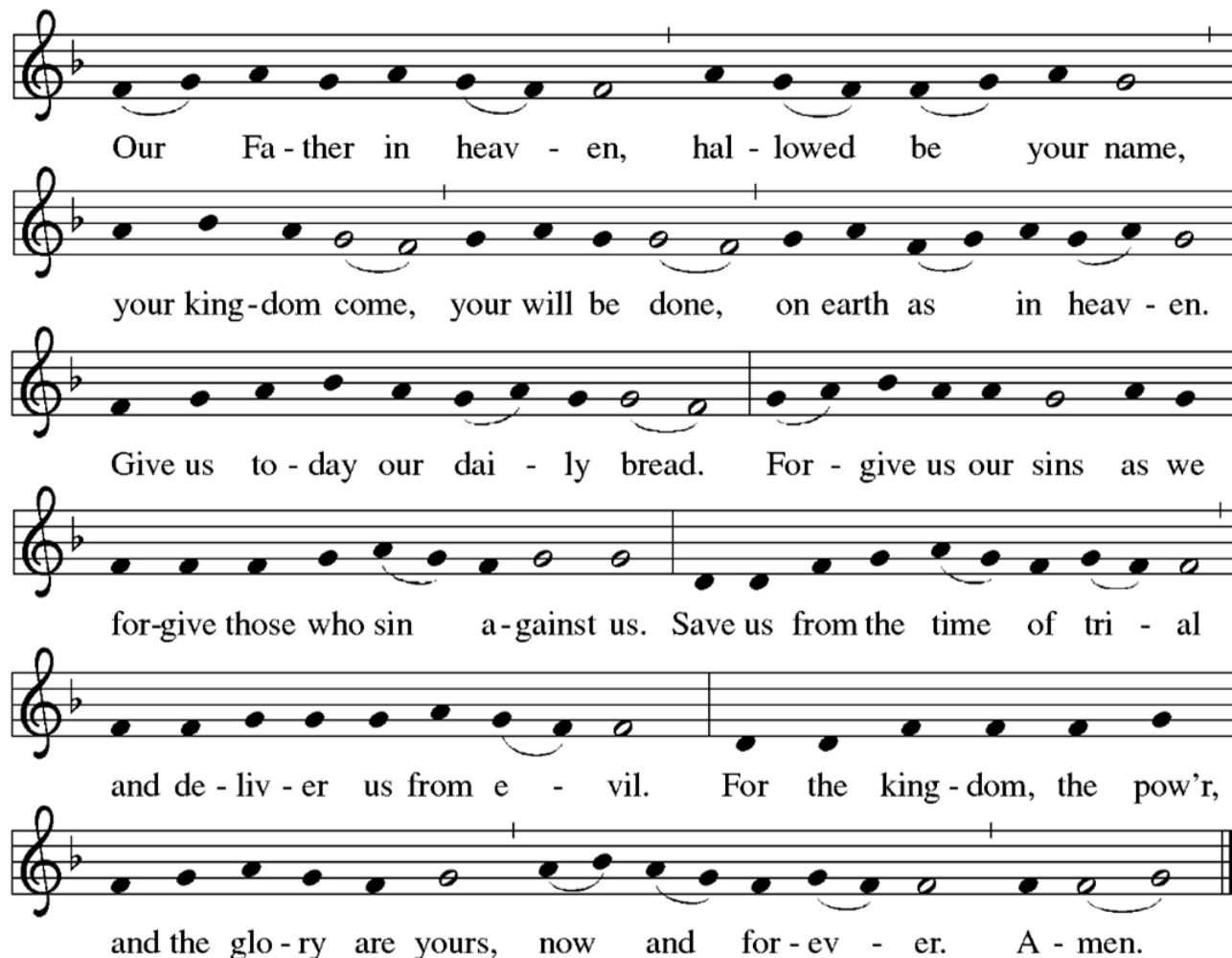


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Invitation to the Table

Come and receive Jesus, our wilderness strength. All are welcome at God's table.

Please be seated.

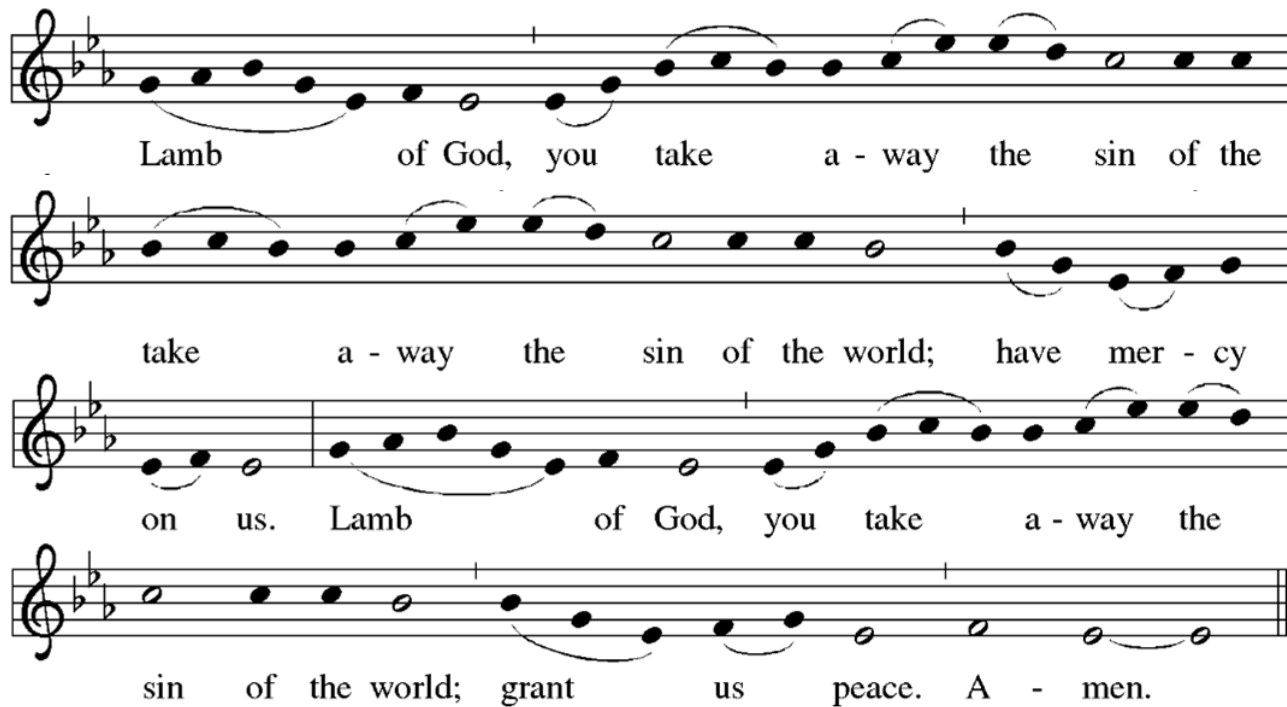


All who seek Christ's presence in the sacrament are invited. This is a welcome table. At the invitation of the usher, you may come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer. Then, dip the bread in the cup of **red wine** or **white grape juice**, receiving the elements together. If you'd prefer to drink from a chalice, indicate this to the server and one will be made available.



Agnus Dei

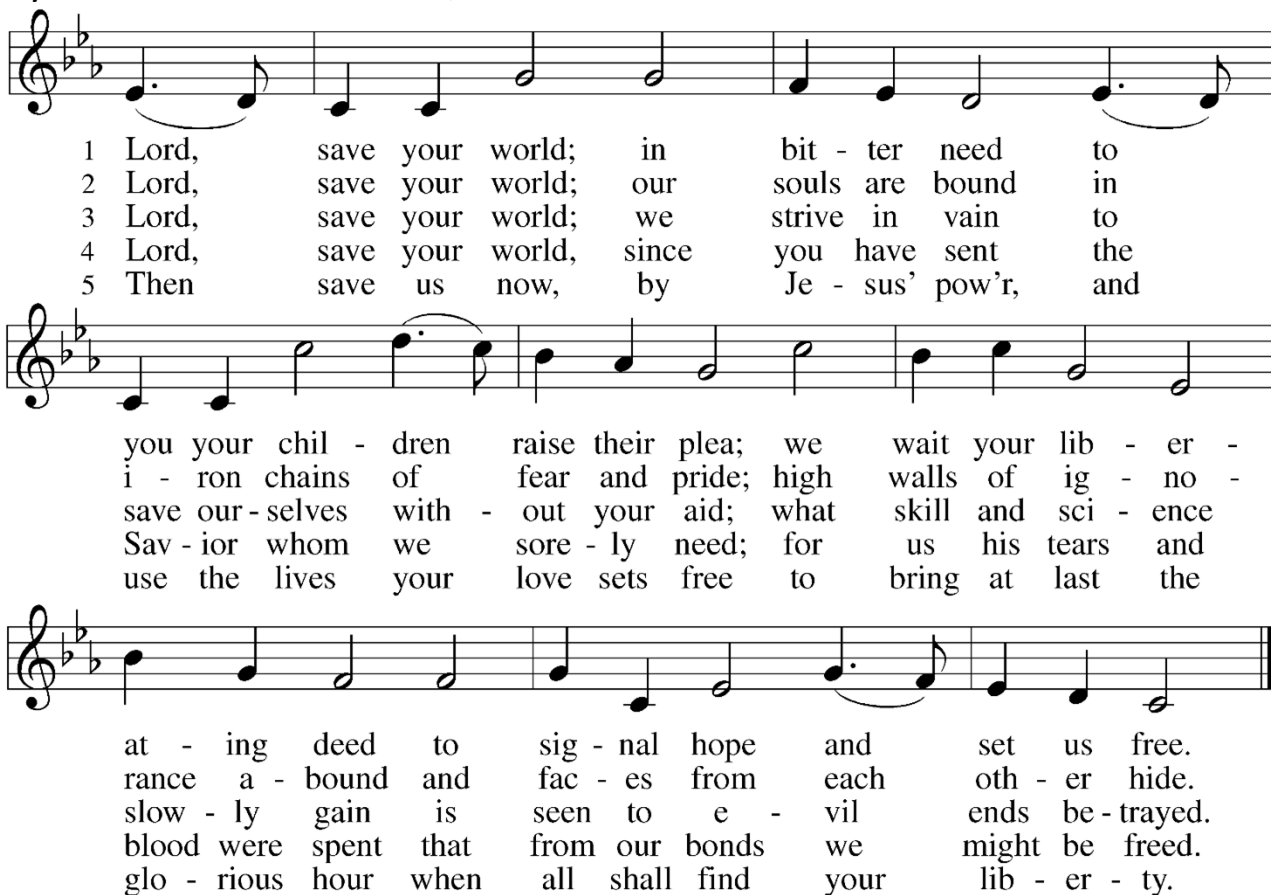
Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
 on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

*Hymn

Lord, Save Your World



1 Lord, save your world; in bit - ter need to
 2 Lord, save your world; our souls are bound in
 3 Lord, save your world; we strive in vain to
 4 Lord, save your world, since you have sent the
 5 Then save us now, by Je - sus' pow'r, and
 you your chil - dren raise their plea; we wait your lib - er -
 i - ron chains of fear and pride; high walls of ig - no -
 save our - selves with - out your aid; what skill and sci - ence
 Sav - ior whom we sore - ly need; for us his tears and
 use the lives your love sets free to bring at last the
 at - ing deed to sig - nal hope and set us free.
 rance a - bound and fac - es from each oth - er hide.
 slow - ly gain is seen to e - vil ends be - trayed.
 blood were spent that from our bonds we might be freed.
 glo - rious hour when all shall find your lib - er - ty.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.
 Music: KIEDRON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Hymn

Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow

1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow the wood - land, field,
 2 Lord Je - sus, since you love me, now spread your wings
 3 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, for God this night

and mead - ow— the world in slum - ber lies. But you, my heart,
 a - bove me and shield me from a - larm. Though e - vil would
 will sure - ly from per - il guard your heads. Sweet slum - ber may

a - wak - ing and prayer and mu - sic mak - ing:
 as - sail me, your mer - cy will not fail me;
 God send you; the an - gel hosts at - tend you

let praise to your cre - a - tor rise.
 I rest in your pro - tect - ing arm.
 and through the night watch o'er your beds.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517; arr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

*Hymn

Is There Any Room in Your Heart for Jesus?

Refrain

Is there an - y room in your heart for Je - sus?

Is there an - y room for Him, room for Him?

Is there an - y room for the King of kings?

Last time to Coda ⊕

Is there an - y room for Him?

Verses

1. He was born just a babe in Beth - le - hem,
an - gels de - clared His com - ing,

Born in a man - ger stall. If you let Him
 Glo - ry to God on high. If you let Him

Last time D.C.
 en - ter your heart, He will be your all in all. 2. The
 en - ter your heart, His Spir - it will stay close by.

♩ Coda There is room, there is room,
 Him? There is room, there is room, there is

room in my heart for the King of kings. There is room for Him.

Text: Wyatt Tee Walker, ©
 Tune: Wyatt Tee Walker, ©; arr. by Valeria A. Foster, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Rise in body or spirit.

Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep us in grace. **Amen.**

Sending

Charge

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. **Amen.**



*Sending Hymn

Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847
 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

