

ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
7:00 pm

PRELUDE

“Evening Song”

David Hunt

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ **Gathering** +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KYRIE

The congregation may stand.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of




God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Holy God, your servants argued about who would be greatest in your kingdom. Help us to be confident in the love you have for us, so that we feel no need to compete for your attention. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

REFLECTIVE SONG

When Our Song Says Peace, verse 1



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953
Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
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Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

READING

Psalms 51:1-15

A reading from the Psalms.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against 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.
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIVE SONG

When Our Song Says Peace, verse 2 (see page 3)

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ The disciples came up to Jesus with the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
² Jesus called for a little child to come and stand among them. ³ Then Jesus said, “The truth is, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Those who make themselves as humble as this child are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ “Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.

⁶ But those who would cause any of these little ones who believe in me to stumble would be better off thrown into the sea with millstones around their necks. ⁷ “Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! Stumbling blocks are inevitable, but woe to those through whom they come!

⁸ “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to enter Life without your limbs than to have two hands or two feet and be hurled into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away. It is better to enter Life without sight, than to have two eyes and be hurled into the eternal fire.

¹⁰ “See to it that you never despise one of these little ones, for I swear that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my God. ¹¹ The Promised One has come to save what was lost. ¹² “What do you think? Suppose a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them strays away—won’t the shepherd leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the stray? ¹³ If the shepherd finds it, the truth is, there is more joy over the one found than over the ninety-nine that didn’t stray. ¹⁴ In the same way, it is never the will of your God in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

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

REFLECTIVE SONG

When Our Song Says Peace, verse 3 (see page 3)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

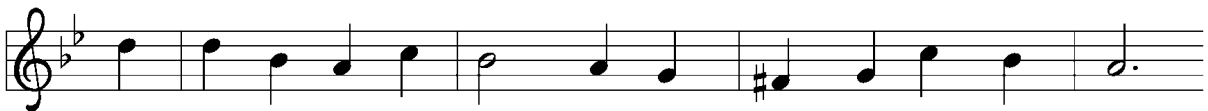
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1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church, we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life. Through this remembering, 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 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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of saints,
that we have sinned by our 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, 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.

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.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

All-loving God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and our ultimate oneness with all of creation. As we are marked with the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, remind us that it is through you and in you that we have eternal life.

Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

“Beautiful Things”

Those who wish to receive ashes may proceed down the center aisle. The pastor marks the forehead of each person with an ashen cross, saying, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The person receiving ashes may respond, “Amen,” and then return to their pew via the side aisle.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your liberation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Child, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

All-loving 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 abundant life.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn your hands up toward the sky; close your eyes or lift your eyes upward.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

or Lord, we praise you,
Thanks be to God.

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THE PEACE

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

+ **Meal** +

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the saving works of God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY VERSE

When Jesus Set His Table



When Je - sus set His ta - ble, no one was turned a - way. That ta - ble was a
No race, no creed, no na - tion, no love of heart and vow, No gen - der is re -



pro - mise of bles - sing and of grace. So set the ta - ble ful - ly in - vite the whole world in. If
ject - ed. The ta - ble's wait - ing now.

13



we would share love's wel - come then here's where we be - gin!

OFFERTORY PRAYER


Let us pray together.

**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 Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.**


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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who 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

LORD'S PRAYER

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

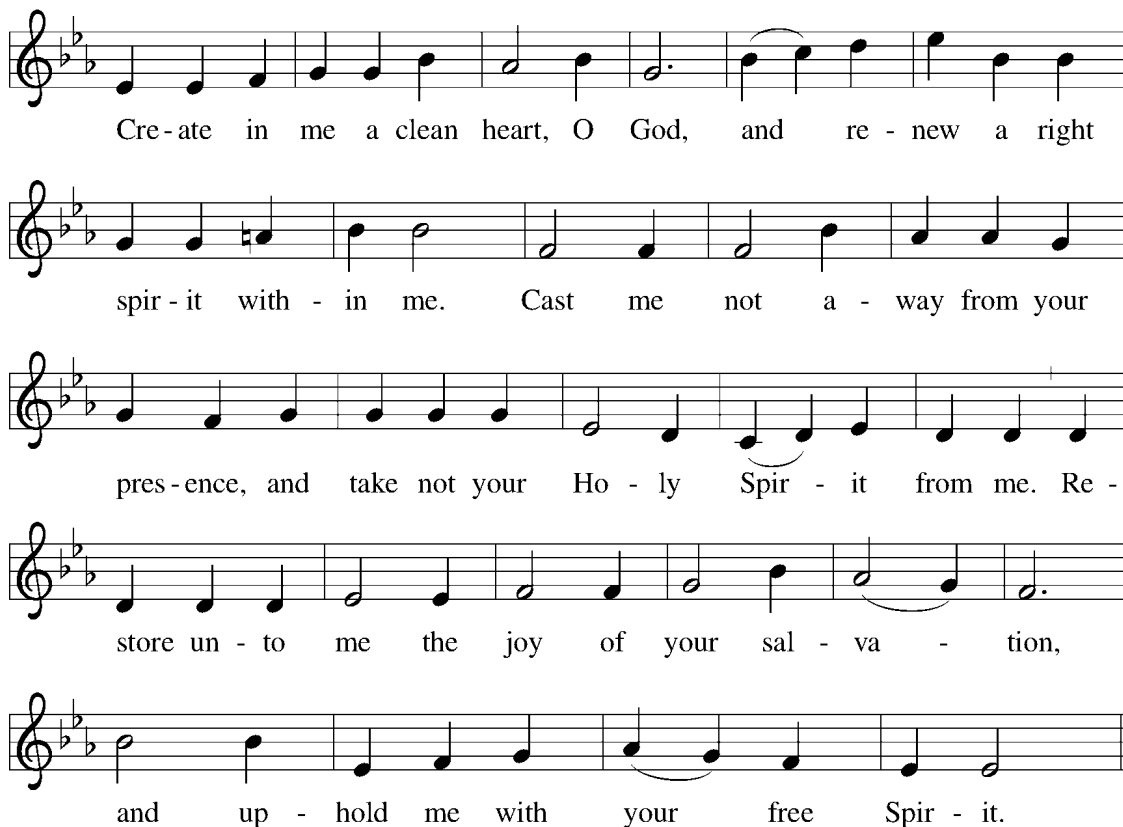
INVITATION

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the

side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

COMMUNION VERSE



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.

COMMUNION SOLO

“Hear the Lambs A-Cryin,” arr. H. T. Burleigh

You hear the lambs a-cryin'
hear the lambs a-cryin'
hear the lambs a-cryin'
O Shepherd, feed my sheep.

My Lord spoke these words so sweet
Oh Shepherd, feed my sheep.
Saying 'Peter, if you love me, feed my sheep.'
Oh Shepherd, feed my sheep.

Lord, I love Thee, Thou dost know
Oh Shepherd, feed my sheep
Oh give me grace to love thee more
Oh Shepherd, feed my sheep.

For I'm a pilgrim journeying on
Oh, shepherd, feed my sheep
When you see me, pity me,
Oh, shepherd, feed my sheep.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Holy One-in-Three, through your death,
we are fed with the bread of life.**

**Let us follow your way to the cross,
to be for others a sign of your compassion and life.**

As you have fed us, let us go out to be part of feeding the world.

Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

God, the giver of love,
Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and † the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

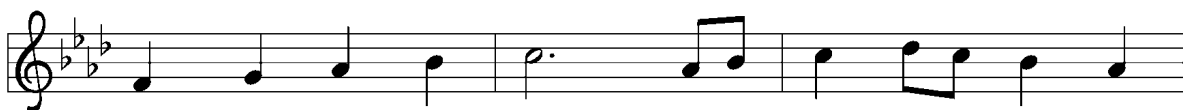
SENDING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Solemn Processional”

Robert A. Harris

SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching & Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Jason Shutters
<i>Minister of Music:</i>	Luke Duroc-Danner
<i>Cantor:</i>	Audrey Neace
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Jan Wendel
<i>Ushers:</i>	Chris & Finny Maglocchi
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Susan Crist

NOTES ON TONIGHT’S COMPOSERS

William B. Cooper (1920-1993), born in Philadelphia, received his B.M. and M.M. degrees from the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts and a DMA from Columbia Pacific University. He was later granted an honorary Doctorate of Sacred Music from Christ Theological Seminary. Dr. Cooper served as Minister of Music at St. Philip's Episcopal Church from 1953-1974 and at St. Martin's Episcopal Church from 1974-1988. He also served on the faculty of Bennet College and Hampton University as well as 26 years in New York City's school system.

David Hurd (b. 1950) received his B.B. degree from Oberlin Conservatory and M.M. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Hurd later served as Assistant Chapel Organist and Assistant Director of Choral Activities at Duke University. He later received an honorary degree from Yale University and taught there as a visiting professor. As an organist, he has served since 1976 as a Professor of Church Music and Organist at the General Seminary in Manhattan as well as the Director of Music at All Saints Episcopal Church in New York City. He also assisted on the commission that produced the 1982 Episcopal Hymnal.

Robert A. Harris (b. 1938) is a Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, and he served as Director of Choral organizations and Professor of Conducting at Bienen from 1977-2012. Dr. Harris is a frequent clinician and guest conductor with organizations across the world, and he served for three years as a member of the Choral Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts. Dr. Harris also served as the Director of Music and Choir Director at the Winnetka Congregational Church.

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