



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 + 7:00 P.M.

We Gather To Worship

PRELUDE Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE *Joel 2:12-17*

OPENING LITANY (Adapted from *Psalms* 51:1-17)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

ALL: **Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from
our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sins are ever
before us.**

Leader: Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in
your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless
when you pass judgment.

ALL: **Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers
conceived us. You desire truth in our inward being; therefore,
teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.**

Leader: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall
be whiter than snow. Let us hear joy and gladness; let the bones
that you have crushed rejoice.

ALL: **Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.
Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right
spirit within us.**

Leader: Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your holy
spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain
in us a willing spirit.

ALL: **Then we will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will
return to you. Deliver us from bloodshed, O God, O God of our
salvation, and our tongues will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. For
you have no delight in sacrifice;
if we were to give burnt offerings, you would not be pleased.

ALL: **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken
and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

HYMN: No. 77 “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: 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. Let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (unison)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Our transgressions are many, but they can be boiled down to these essential problems. We do not trust you enough. We do not love you enough. We do not love each other enough. We follow kingdoms that are not yours. We follow laws that are not yours. We participate in systems of death. We deny resources to the poor. We turn away immigrants. We fail to care for the sick and injured. We fail to visit the incarcerated, let alone abolish incarceration. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.

KYRIE: No. #572 (unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (unison)

Leader: See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

ALL: 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. Now is the day of salvation!
Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI: No. 579 (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

READING: *Isaiah 58:1-12*

MEDITATION

ANTHEM *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 6:1-9*

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Respond in Faith

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES *Sign Us with Ashes*

HYMN: No. 543 "Abide with Me"

SILENT REFLECTION

We Go Into the World

BENEDICTION: *Matthew 6:16-21*

**EMBRACE THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT IN SILENCE TO
CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY TO THE CROSS, CONFIDENT OF GOD'S
PRESENCE AND GRACE.**

Joel 2:12-17

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?' "

Isaiah 58:1-12

58 Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 6:1-9

6 "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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ "Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy.

Matthew 6:16-21

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.

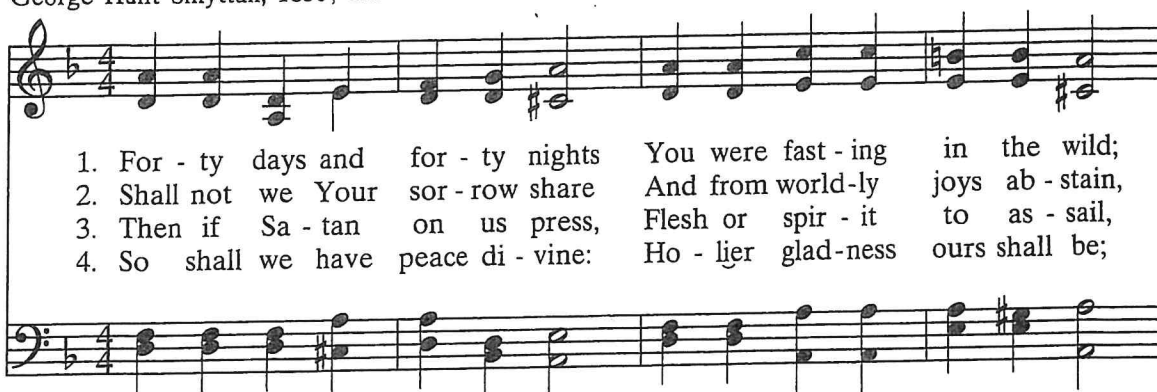
¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

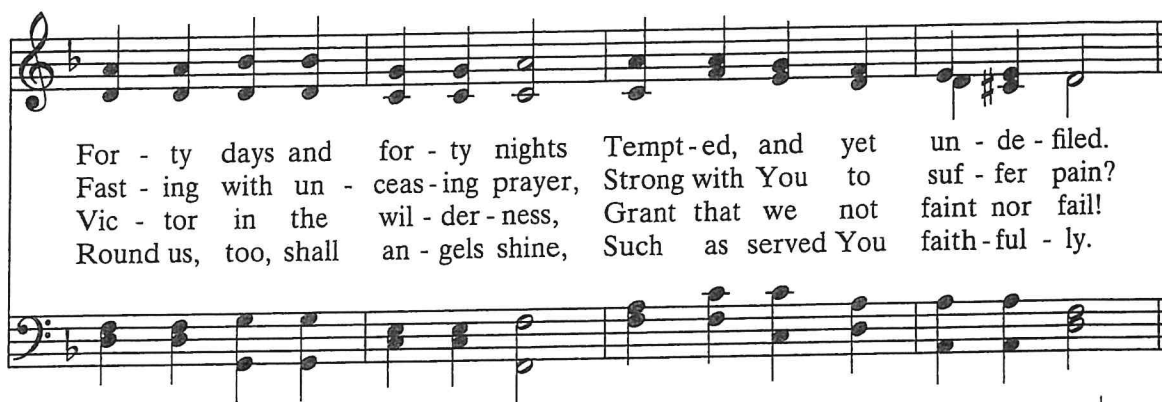
AUS DER TIEFE RUF E ICH 7.7.7.7

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Attr. Martin Herbst, 1676



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
 2. Shall not we Your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with You to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant that we not faint nor fail!
 Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served You faith - ful - ly.

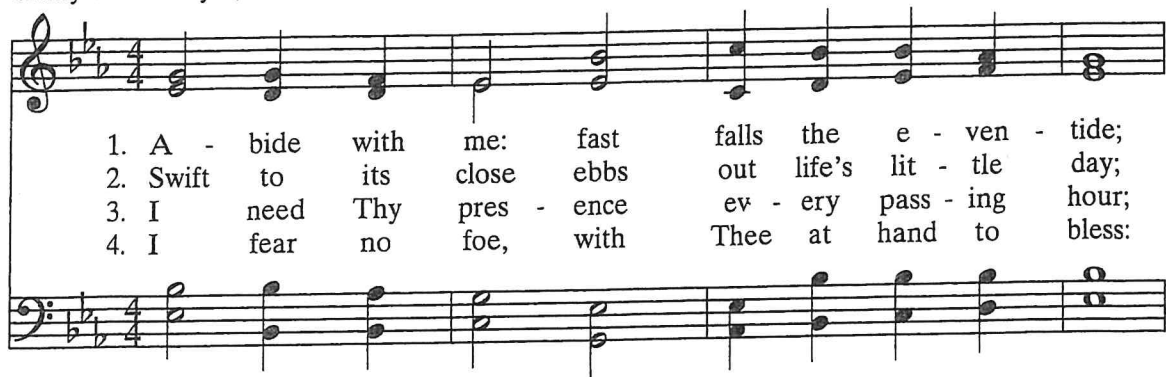
5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
 Ever constant by Your side;
 That with You we may appear
 At the eternal Eastertide.

♩=50-54

Henry Francis Lyte, 1847

EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10

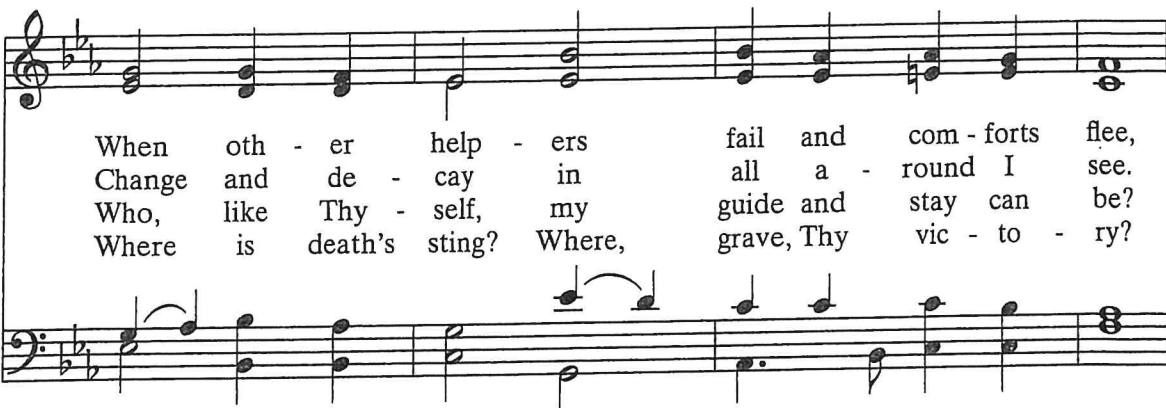
William Henry Monk, 1861



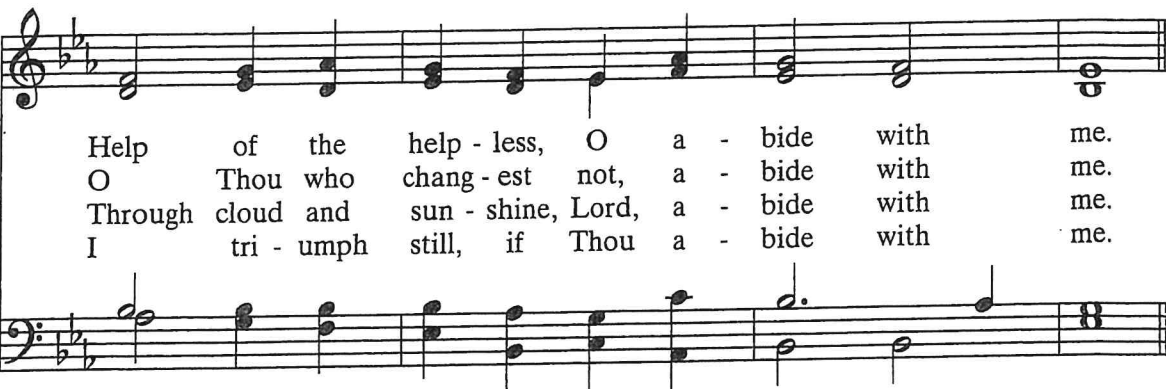
1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:



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 power?
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.



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?



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if Thou a - bide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:
 Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.