



# Ash Wednesday

*Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity*

*February 18, 2026  
7:00 p.m.*

## Liturgy of Holy Communion, Setting 5

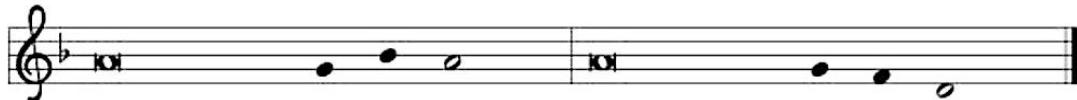
*Congregational responses are in bold case.*

**Significance of the Day:** 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.

### Gathering

*All gather in silence. Upon entering the pew, you may kneel for self-examination in prayer and silence before God. The assembly **stands** as ministers enter.*

Psalm 51:1-17      *Psalm will be sung responsively by verse.*



1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;  
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 | my transgressions,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**4 Against you only | have I sinned  
and done what is evil | in your sight.**

5 And so you are justified | when you speak  
and upright | in your judgment.

**6 Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

7 For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,  
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

**8 Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

9 Make me hear of | joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

**10 Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

11 Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

**12 Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.**

13 Give me the joy of your saving | help again  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

**14 I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,  
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

15 Deliver me from | death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my  
salvation.

**16 Open my | lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

17 Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

### Invitation to Lent

Brothers and sisters 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

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

*The assembly kneels, as able, or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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

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.

*The assembly is encouraged to come forward to the foot of the chancel steps to receive the ashes. All baptized Christians are encouraged to participate. Psalms 6, 90, and 143 are suggested for reflection and prayer.*

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

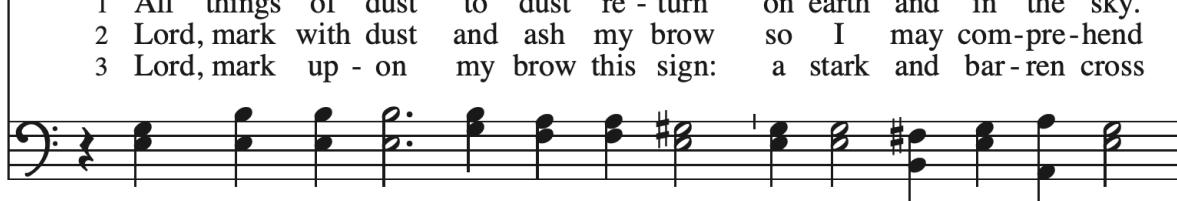
## Remember That You Are Dust

\* *May be sung in canon*

### All Things of Dust to Dust Return



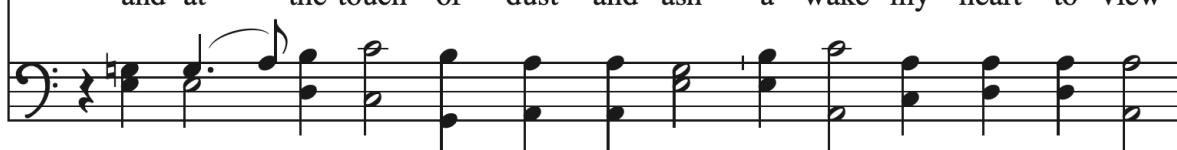
1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.  
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend  
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar - ren cross



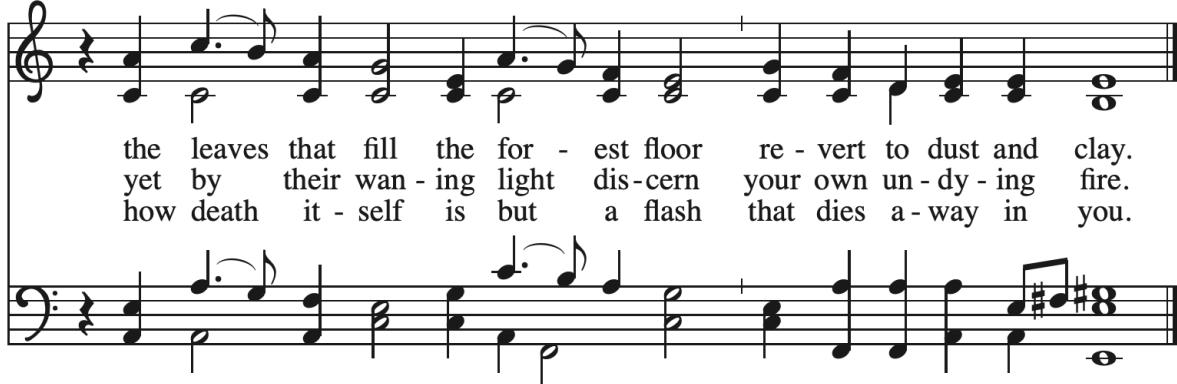
The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.  
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end  
re - mind-ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,  
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire  
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.  
yet by their wan - ing light dis-cern your own un - dy - ing fire.  
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.



6

*After those who desire ashes have received them, **all may kneel or sit**, and the minister continues.*

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.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

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.**

*After a period of silence for reflection, **the assembly stands.***

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# Word

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel:

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, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

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;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
16 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.

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?"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-14 *The psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse.*



8 LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

**9 you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.**

10 You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

**11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

12 As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

**13 As a father has compassion | for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.**

14 For you know well how | we are formed;  
you remember that we | are but dust.

A reading from Second Corinthians:

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

6:1 As we work together with him, we urge 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.”

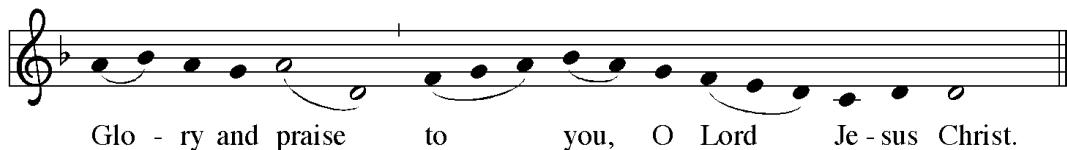
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 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.**

*The assembly stands*

Gospel Acclamation



**Return to the <sup>1</sup> LORD, your God,  
 who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.**

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

*The assembly stands.*

## Hymn

## Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006  
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750  
 Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

## Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding, Merciful God, receive our prayer.

*A brief silence.*

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.**

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place, especially Pastor Roth, Shirley, Marilyn and Mary Jo. 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.**

Are there others for whom we should pray?

**P:** 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 assembly stands.*

Peace

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

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you. And also with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

## *Meal*

Offertory

Do not store up for yourselves  
Charles. Russ

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth  
Where moth and rust destroy,  
But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven  
Where moth and rust do not destroy,  
Where thieves cannot break in and steal.

Refrain: For wherever your treasure is there will be your heart also

Have no concern for yourselves for food and drink  
Or what clothes you should wear,  
For it is life not much more than food and clothes?  
Your heavenly father feeds the birds.  
Are you not worth much more than they?

Don't waste time with the thoughts of your worried mind  
Or things not yet in sight,  
But seek after your God and what is right.  
Tomorrow will take care of itself;  
Today is all you have to live.

-- paraphrase of Matthew 6

*The assembly stands.*

Offertory Verse

Offertory Verse

Music score for Offertory Verse, featuring five staves of music with lyrics in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time.

1. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Return unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

2. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Return unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

3. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Return unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

4. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Return unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

5. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Return unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

### Offertory Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

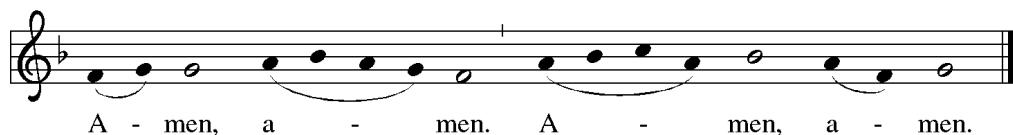
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a-gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

## The Lord's Prayer



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-against 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.

## The Breaking of Bread

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

*The assembly sits.*

## Lamb of God

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

## The Communion of the Faithful

***Procedure for Communing:*** Approach the altar rail through the door to the front left, take a small glass from the tray and move to the furthest place open, kneeling if you are able, or standing. Receive the host either in your open palm or in your mouth; receive the wine poured into the small glass, saying "Amen" after receiving each. If you are unable to consume either the bread or wine, be assured that Christ is fully present for us in either element; reverence the body or blood of Christ by saying "Amen" when the host or the cup is presented. Leave by the right, placing your empty glass in the tray provided, and return to your pew.

## Hymn

## This is Christ's Body

This musical score consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with some words underlined by curved lines. The first staff begins with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The second staff begins with a half note. The third staff begins with a quarter note. The lyrics are as follows:

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,

with mer - cy and love.

bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

## Hymn

## Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

*The assembly stands.*

## Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

**Amen.**

### Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly kneels, as able, or sits in silent prayer until after the dismissal.*

### *Sending*

#### Blessing

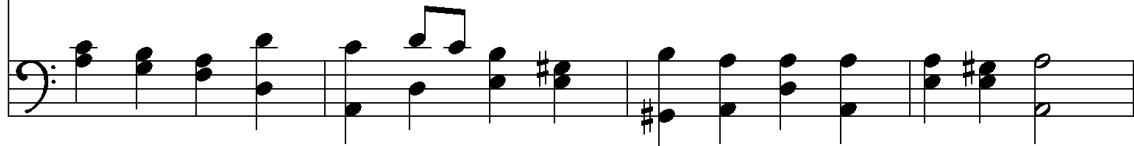
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.** Sung.

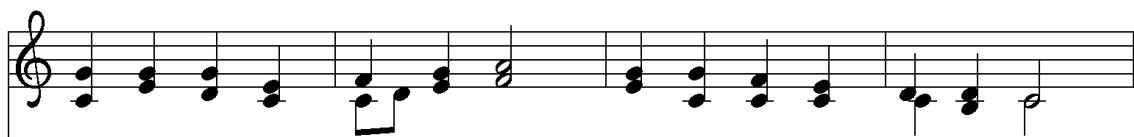
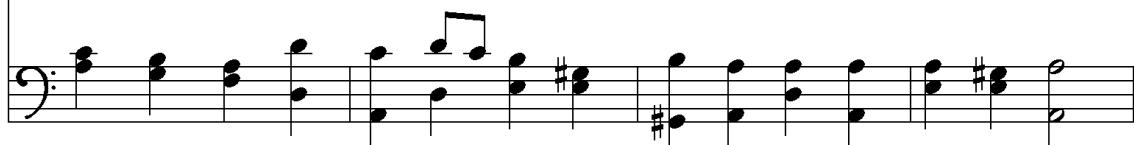
## On my Heart Imprint Your Image



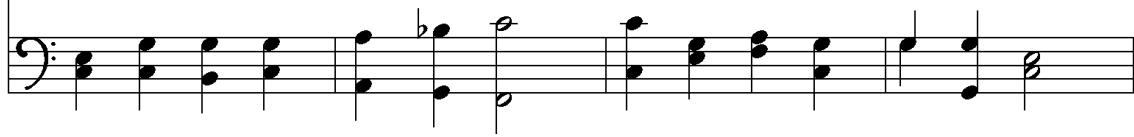
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless-ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou-bles nor its plea-sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, all my glo-ry and sal - va - tion!



## **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.**

## **About Ashes and Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday received its name from the practice of imposing ashes on this day which marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent. The imposition of ashes is a sign that we have confessed our sinfulness and is an outward sign of inward penitence. Experience has shown that Christians find this practice rich in meaning and powerful in emotional impact. After being long neglected, this practice has been revived in Lutheran congregations over the past several decades.

The use of ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in Scripture (for example see Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; and Matthew 11:21.) The early Christian Church accepted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence, sorrow for sin.

Why use an ancient symbol now? Because the symbol speaks to us in several ways. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin – as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19.) Second, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Ashes were used in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday the ashes are a penitential reminder of God's cleansing of us in Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life – as we say at the time of burial of the dead, "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a reminder that one day those words will be said over each of us. Finally, as mentioned above, ashes are a symbol of repentance.

Palm branches saved from the previous year's celebration of the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday are burned to make the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

## **Procedure for Communing**

Approach the altar rail through the door to the front left, take a small glass from the tray and move to the furthest place open, kneeling if you are able, or standing. Receive the host either in your open palm or in your mouth; receive the wine poured into the small glass, saying "Amen" after receiving each. If you are unable to consume either the bread or wine, be assured that Christ is fully present for us in either element; reverence the body or blood of Christ by saying "Amen" when the host or the cup is presented. Leave by the right, placing your empty glass in the tray provided, and return to your pew.

## **Lenten Morning Prayer**

**Virtual Lenten Morning Prayer** begins tomorrow, Thursday, February 19. You can access Morning Prayer via our website, <http://www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com>, or our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@holytrinitylutheranchurchg3699/videos>. There will be a new video posted each day. During the season of Lent, each member of the congregation will be named in prayer.

## **Lenten Evening Prayer**

Lenten Evening Prayer will have every Wednesday during Lent at **6:15 p.m.** (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25), and in Holy Week, **7:00 p.m.** Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 30, 31 and April 1).

## **Stations of the Cross**

Each Friday evening (February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27) at 5:30 p.m. we will pray the Stations of the Cross. This devotion allows us to spend time with the Lord on his journey to the cross for our salvation. Come and spend some time with him during his last hours ending with his crucifixion.

## Good Shepherd Easter Request

The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **Easter is 60 boxes of mashed potatoes.** Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister, on the table in the church office hallway or directly at the Food Pantry.

## *Serving Tonight*

Presiding Minister  
Music Director  
Liturgical Deacon  
Lector  
Usher  
Altar Guild

Pastor Brenda Martin  
Steve Repasky  
Sean Oros  
Bonnie Massing  
Tammy Daniello  
Bonnie Massing  
Bonnie Long

*Ash Wednesday*



*You are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

**GENESIS 3:19**