

... store up for yourselves  
treasures in heaven ...

Matthew 6:20, NRSV



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Holy Communion

1:30 PM & 7 PM

LBW Setting 1

Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson

Minister of Music: Michael Busija

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)



ASH  
WEDNESDAY 2019

One of the more powerful moments of the church year has always been for me, and I would suspect for any pastor, the moment after the imposition of ashes when you look out at the congregation and see everyone marked with the black ash crosses. That moment is a stark

visual reminder that everyone you love and care for, no matter their age, health, or ability will die. It is a visual representation of the phrase, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

As you gather this Ash Wednesday in invite you to look around and see how you are surrounded by people who have been marked for death. Sit in the hard reality that your life, my life, the lives of all we see, and the lives of all people do end. Ash Wednesday can be sobering as it reminds us of the truth of our existence.

However, Ash Wednesday also reminds us that death does not have the last word over us. These crosses not only to remind us of our mortality but remind us that Jesus destroyed the power of death. In his death on the cross our Lord Jesus went into death itself—but death could not hold him. Death could not contain the one who is the God who brought all life into being.

It was in our baptism that we were first marked with the cross of Christ. The ash cross is a reminder of the promise of one who has claimed us and will never let us go. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ash Wednesday is a reminder of the hope we have in Jesus. Whether we live or whether we die we belong to Jesus Christ. Jesus is our hope, our way, our truth, our life, and our salvation. We are called to follow him. We are called to follow the only one who can save us.

May our Lord Jesus be with you. May you know Christ’s presence now and always. May you know the great gift of life you have received in Jesus Christ. May you be led by the Holy Spirit to turn back to our Savior and follow his way of self-giving love and mercy in this world.

May Christ bless you now and always.

+Bishop Michael Rhyne

# ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

*The assembly stands.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Please sit or kneel as you are able.*

Sovereign God,  
in baptism you called us to turn from sin  
and to turn to Jesus Christ;  
but we stray from his ways  
and do not heed your call.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death  
that we might be raised with Christ in new life;  
but we cherish old ways  
and fail to embrace the risen life  
of righteousness, justice, and love.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you united us with all the baptized  
who confess your name;  
but we foster division in the church.  
We refuse to live as one people,  
and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you call us to ministry  
in all realms of life,  
but we refuse the struggle to know your will;  
we do not nurture the ways of peace;  
we allow enmity and hatred to grow among us,  
putting neighbor against neighbor,  
and nation against nation.  
We abuse the earth you entrust to our care,  
and live in discord with all you made.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion  
all for whom Christ died;  
but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed  
and the plight of the poor.  
We take bread from the hungry,  
and will not listen to cries for justice.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit  
to teach and guide us,  
but we rely on ourselves,  
and refuse to trust your direction.  
We spurn your eternal wisdom,  
preferring the luring ways of the world.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Remember the promises you made to us in our baptism,  
forgive our sinful ways  
and heal our brokenness.  
Set us free from all that enslaves us,  
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ,  
that we may be your faithful servants,  
showing forth your healing love to the world,  
to the glory of your holy name.

**Amen.**

*Col. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:17*

Hear the good news!  
In baptism you were buried with Christ.  
In baptism also you were raised to life with him,  
through faith in the power of God  
who raised Christ from the dead.  
Anyone who is in Christ  
is a new creation.  
The old life has gone;  
a new life has begun.  
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven.

**Amen.**

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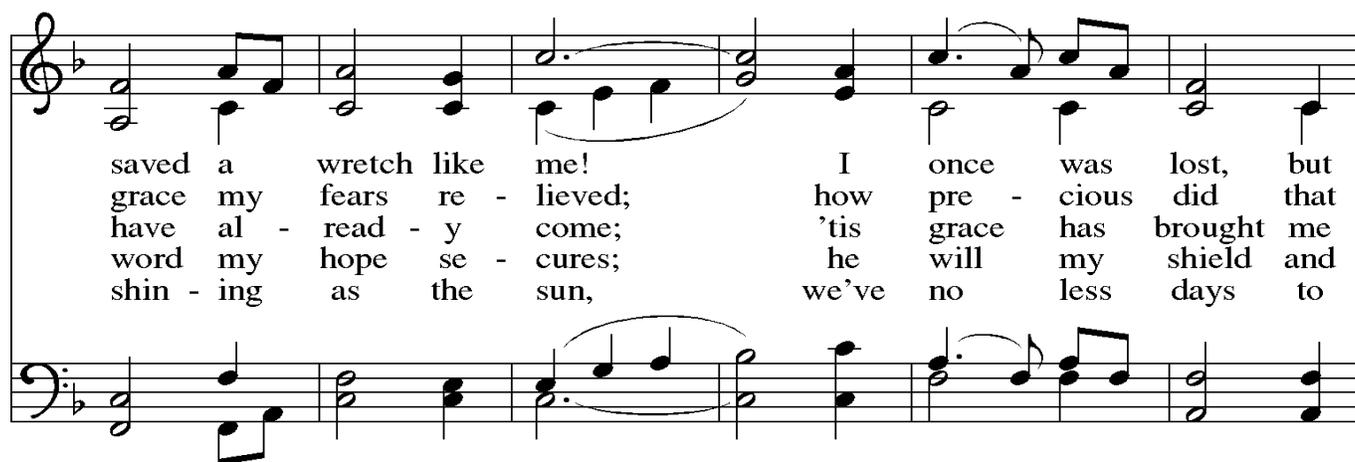
*The assembly is seated.*

# IMPOSITION OF ASHES

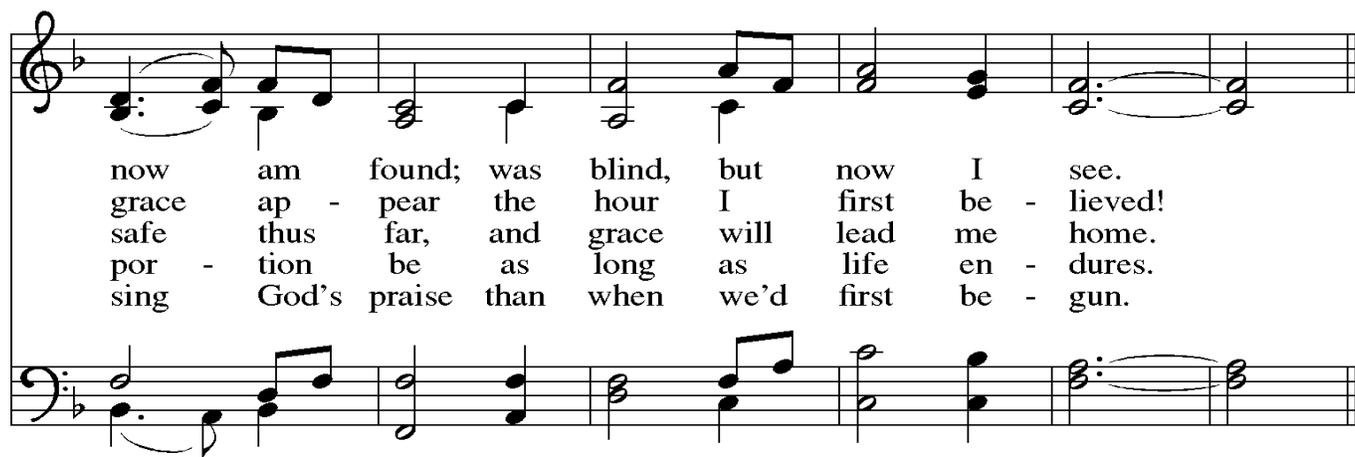
## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward.*

*The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

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

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

*Please kneel as you are able.*

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 Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

The First Lesson is from Joel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

*{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.}*

<sup>1</sup>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—

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,

    return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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.

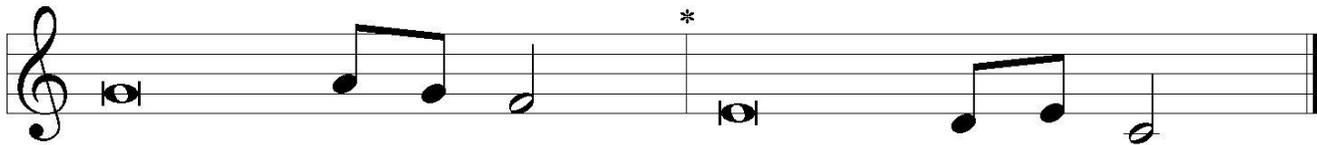
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 51:1-17

Psalm Tone 1



*Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness. (Ps. 51:1)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness,\*  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my transgressions,\*  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**<sup>4</sup>Against you only | have I sinned\*  
and done what is evil | in your sight. R**

<sup>5</sup>And so you are justified | when you speak\*  
and upright | in your judgment.

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,\*  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

<sup>7</sup>For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,\*  
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

**<sup>8</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;\*  
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed. R**

<sup>9</sup>Make me hear of | joy and gladness,\*  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

**<sup>10</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,\*  
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God,\*  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

**<sup>12</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,\*  
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me. R**

<sup>13</sup>Give me the joy of your saving | help again\*  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

**<sup>14</sup>I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,\*  
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

<sup>15</sup>Deliver me from | death, O God,\*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

**<sup>16</sup>Open my | lips, O LORD,\*  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise. R**

<sup>17</sup>Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,\*  
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

## **SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

The Second Lesson is from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> chapters.

*{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.}*

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

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>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.*

## VERSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{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:] <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.*

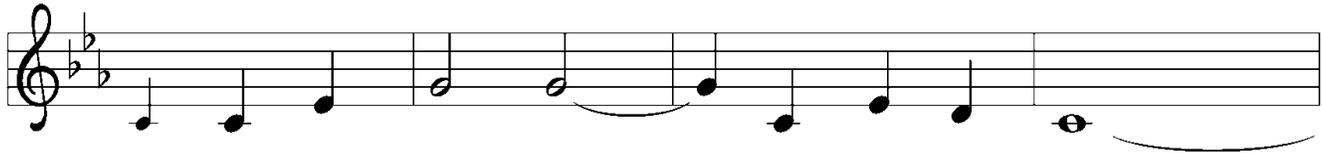
**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*

*The assembly stands.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY

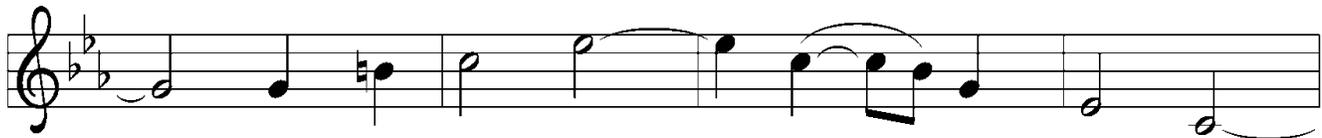
## I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



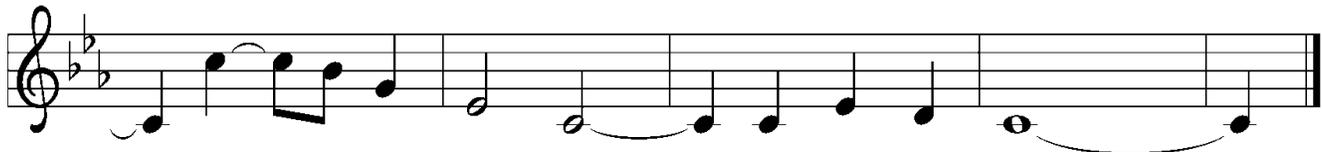
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## THE PRAYERS

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy and righteous God, teach us, your church, to be honest about our sinfulness. Turn our hearts back to you to receive the fullness of your forgiveness and redemption. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Open wide your hand to satisfy the needs of every living thing. Send your Spirit to places suffering from drought or floods. Fill every habitat with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up reconcilers who point us to the sources of injustice and teach us how to build relationships. Establish your lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Soothe the souls of people who feel like they are beyond your mercy (*especially*). Wash away the barriers that keep us far from you, and restore joy in our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Fill our fasting bodies with your Spirit of justice. Lead us into the challenging work of feeding and freeing all people. Fulfill your purpose in us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reveal the treasures of heaven through the witness of all your saints (*especially*). Give us the will to journey faithfully and to bear Christ's salvation to all who yearn for it. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

### Peace be with you.

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*The assembly stands.*



☐ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



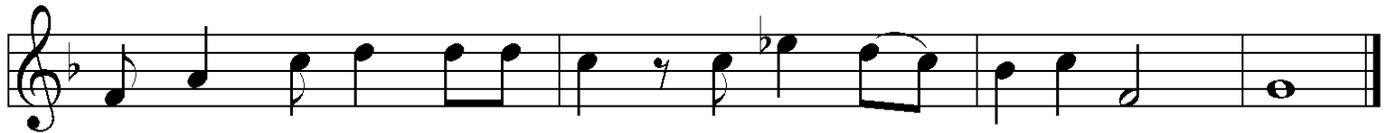
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,  
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor  
and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

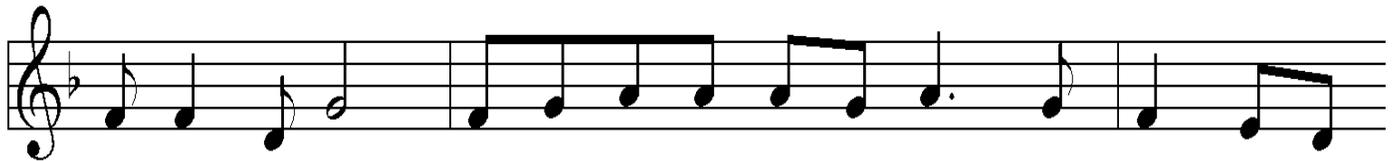
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## 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.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

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

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Please come forward by the center aisle. Pick up a communion glass from the trays at the end of the center aisle. The empty glass can be returned to the tray for empty glasses as you return to your pew by the side aisles. Be sure to fill out the pew pad.

# COMMUNION HYMN

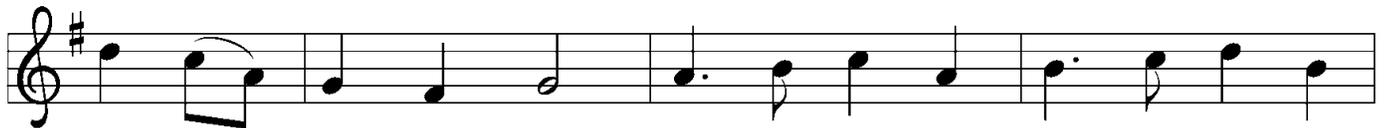
## Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



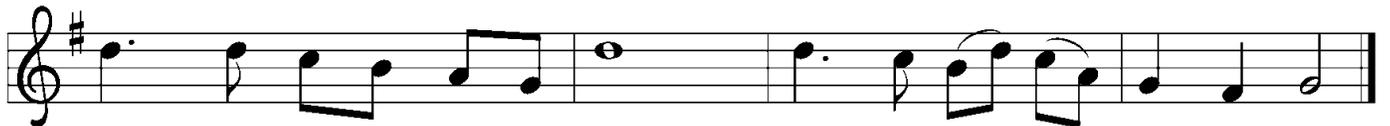
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

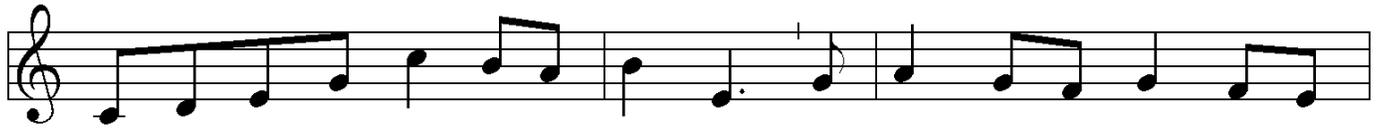
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

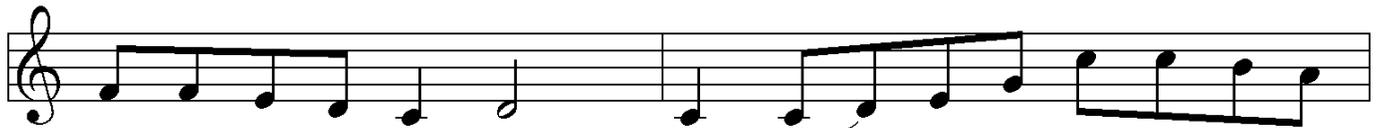
## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

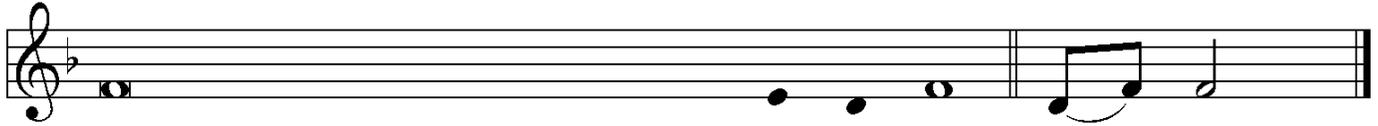
Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silence for reflection.*

## BLESSING



♩ The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

♩ A - men

## SENDING HYMN

### Bless Now, O God, the Journey



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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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### \* March 6 © ASH WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM & 7 PM \*

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Acolytes-**Need Volunteer** (1:30); Anna & Ellie Hunsberger (7)

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Altar- Ronna Marisa (1:30); **Need Volunteer** (7)

---

Communion Assts-Buck Sleek & Tom Ravenscraft (1:30); Mike & Melissa Grose (7)

---

Bread- Deb Hart (1:30); Sue Risch (7)

---

Lectors- Ronna Marisa (1:30); Marvin Gindlesperger (7)

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Ushers- Ed & Deb Hart (1:30); Joe & Sue Risch (7)

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Counters- Team 1: Marvin & Deb Gindlesperger, Lou Ann Reckner, Alan Mankamy, & Sue Risch

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Wednesday evening Bible study and light meals are scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. **\*\*Volunteers needed for soup & sandwiches. A signup sheet is available in the narthex. \*\***

The evening begins with a light meal of soup and sandwiches served at 6:00 PM. People may come after 5:30 PM. A Bible study will be led by Pastor Faron based on the Sermon on the Mount.

The evening will conclude with Holden Evening Prayer Service.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **I Don't Pray**

She shocked the circle of church members the evening she matter-of-factly announced, "I don't pray . . ." That it was the wife of the pastor who said it pestered the piety of the group all the more. The hand-holding circle of polished and pronounced prayers at the spring retreat may have been what did it to her, what zipped her lips, even more than her otherwise shy inclinations. One after another, words coupled and accumulated around the room, some gliding like monarchs among phlox, others as sirens tearing from full-throttled rescue vehicles. It was at the last when it seemed everything and anything that could be prayed for or about had been exhaled, that all eyes rested on her. All around the circle, expectant ears perked to hear her pray. Nervous to deliver a not-second-rate petition, something not already used up and amen-ed, and to disarm the charging silence, she hitched her rattling words onto the lengthening train of all the others. It was after that when she said, "I don't pray . . ."

What she hadn't said, but expected them to have understood, was ". . . out loud, in front of people. I don't pray out loud in front of others."

People pray, or they don't; we open our purses and lock boxes, or we don't; folks will fast, or they won't. Jesus knows that, and Jesus knows us—knows us well enough to have figured out that no amount of directing to do or to not do will transform hearts or nudge souls into the kingdom of God. And so, as we begin the season of Lent, let us remember that Jesus—always more passionate about the spirit of righteousness than public approval, which is to say, more passionate about the blessedness of mercy than the performance of piety—invites us into heaven's compassionate justice, provoking and disquieting us with his immodest holy commotion for humility—all to welcome the treasure of our very own hearts.