

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2, 2022



Grace Lutheran Church

ASH WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

² Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ,
 - Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
 - Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.
-

Serving in Worship Today

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Betty N., John N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Marlene D., Joyce B.

Family and friends: Donna, Gage, Donna, Virginia, Carol (*Pastor Althea*); Payton (*Joyce Bianco*), Deb, Glen, Peggy, Jeanne (*Bowdens*); Baby Stella (*Clare Brick*); Annmarie, Kathy (*Marlene Doer*); Phyllis, Shawn (*Carol Fry*); Jody (*Grings*); Michael Ann, Rod (*June Jordan*); Shirley & Carl (*Debbie Kleuser*); Jim, Vicki, (*Meg LaSpina*), Bernadette, Lou; Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, (*Renee Pugliese*); Catherine and Sal (*Corrine Rhodes*); Karen (*Sue Robinson*); Dotte Currie, (*Deborah Walker*), Anyah, Cecilia, Edward, Lauren, Marlando, Pauline, and Richard (*Welfields*); Eileen, Marie, Beverlee, Darlene

Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

ELW Setting 4
Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus

By J. S. Bach

Please stand as you are able

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we are gathered to be mindful of our humanness.

Today we remember we are born, we live, and we will die one day.

As we come together to worship, we remember death is not the end. We give thanks for the sacrifice Christ once made so that we would have eternal life, so that we would experience God's eternal love for us. **Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church **ELW # 319**
 Music is located on the next page

*GREETING

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

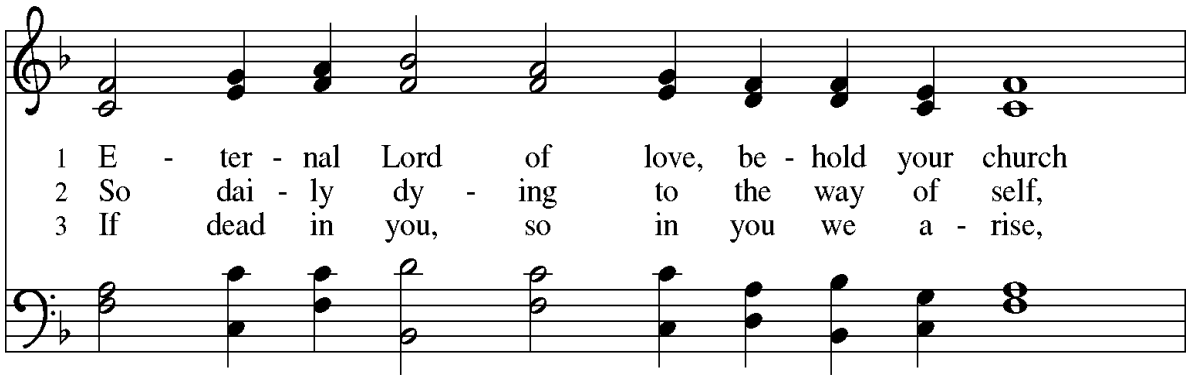
Brief Silence is kept.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who return to you. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, in being sincerely sorry 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.**

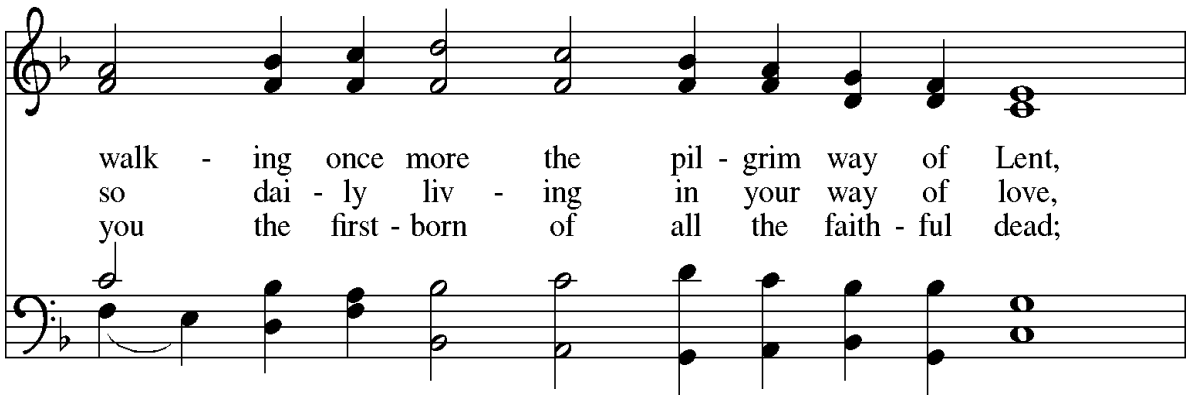
OPENING HYMN

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

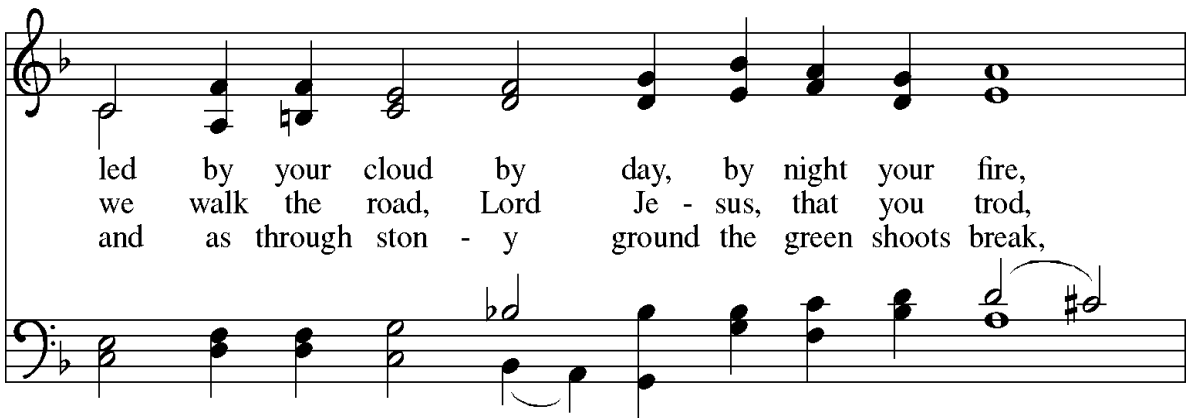
ELW # 321



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

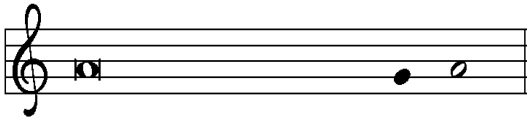
Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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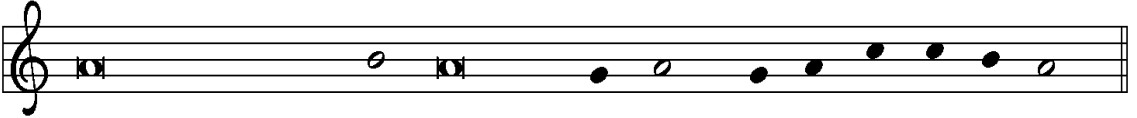
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



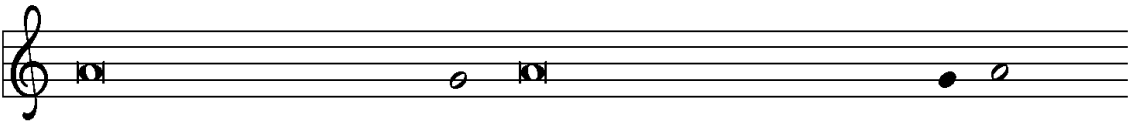
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



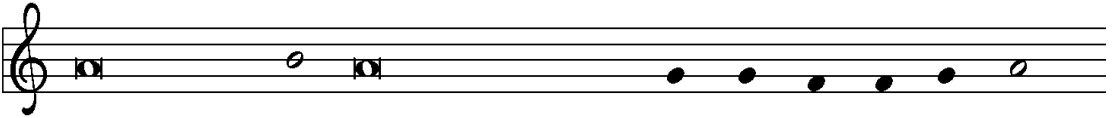
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



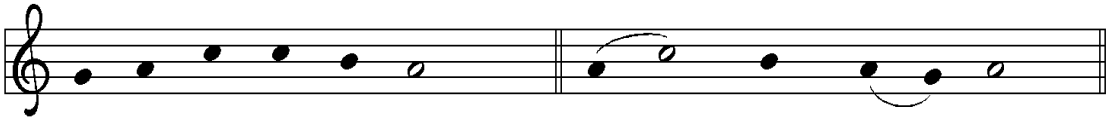
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy 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.

Please be seated



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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.

¹Blow 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—

²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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: Psalm 51:1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses, / and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against 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.

⁶**Indeed, 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 pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let 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.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God, / and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence, / and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders, / and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips, / and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

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.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For 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.

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

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the sixth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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:] ¹“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.

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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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.

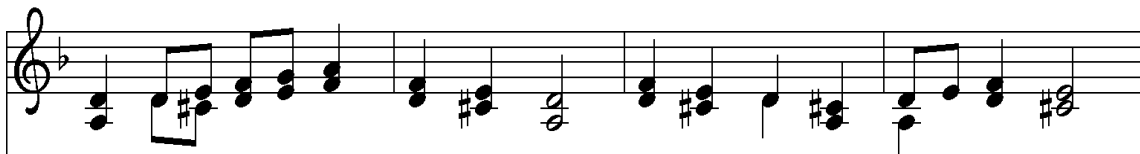
¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

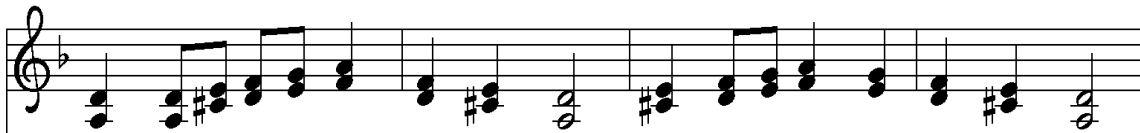
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
 by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-tur-ing scorn,
 by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,
 by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,
 oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with all who believe, we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is made new again.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need to turn back to our relationship with God and our need for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our turning away and our rebelling against good things and against love separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended for us.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to this discipline that reminds us to fight against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite all of us, therefore, to join together during our discipline of Lent—I invite us all to take time for self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by our gifts from God of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days into Holy Week and into the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION

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

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 THE ASHES

Let us pray.

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.**

If you would like the pastor to mark your forehead or the top of your hand with the sign of the cross, please come forward down the center aisle. For anyone who chooses not to receive ashes, you may use this time for meditation and prayers.

Brief silence for mediation.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, 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.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Leader: Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Leader: Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Leader: Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Pastor: Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief (*especially*). Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Leader: Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Leader: As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Pastor: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hide Not Thou Thy Face From Us

By Richard Farrant

PRAYER

Let us pray.

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, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

631 The Lord's Prayer

This, then, is how you should pray. Matthew 6:9

Unison

Our Fa - ther, which art in heav - en, Hal - low - ed

be Thy name. Thy king - dom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread, And for - give us our debts, as

TEXT: Matthew 6:9-13

MUSIC: Albert Hay Mallotte; arranged by Donald P. Hustad

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MALOTTE
Irregular meter

we for-give our debt-ors. And lead us not in-to temp-

ta - tion, But de - liv-er us from e - vil; For Thine is the

king - dom, and the pow - er, and the

glo - ry for - ev - er.

A - men, A - men.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING *We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.*

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

SENDING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image
Music is located on page 20

ELW # 811

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

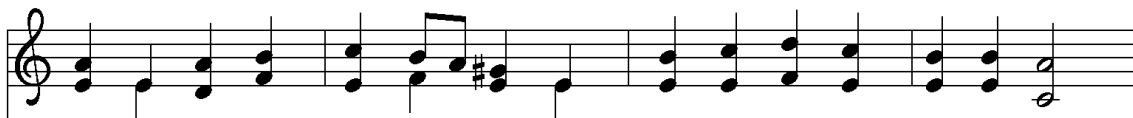
POSTLUDE

My Heart is Filled With Longing
 By Johannes Brahms, edited by L.N. Porter

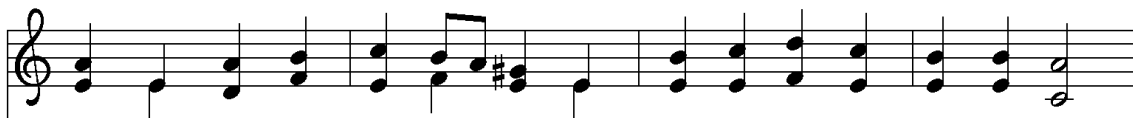
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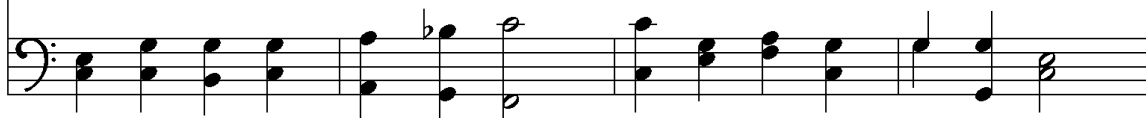
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



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!

