

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 | 7:00 PM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Please stand.

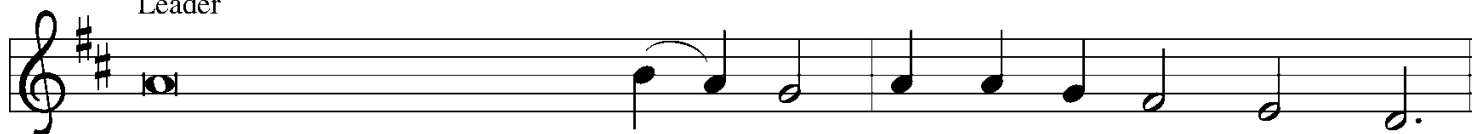
GATHERING HYMN ELW 601 Savior, When in Dust to You

OPENING SENTENCES

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to God, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

KYRIE ELW 602 Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

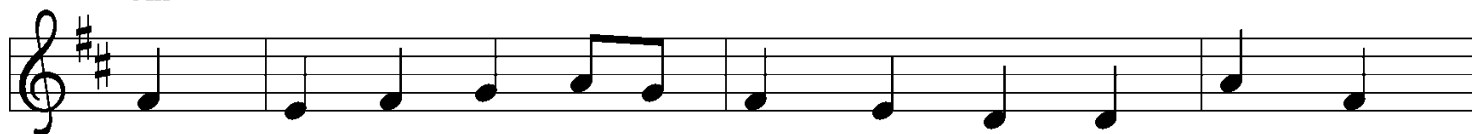
Leader



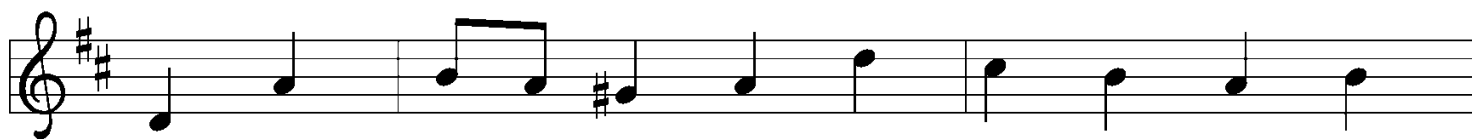
Otče nebeský, Svoritel'u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.

- 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
- 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
- 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

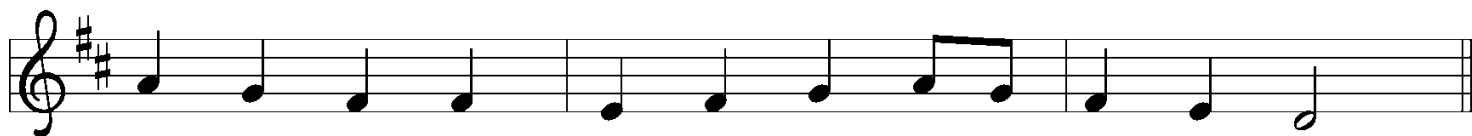
All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

GREETING

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 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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

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 reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51:1–17



© Saint Meinrad Archabbey

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

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

³**For 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.
- ⁶Indeed you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep | within.
- ⁷**Remove 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 re|joice.**
- ⁹Hide your face from | my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, | O God,
and renew a right spirit with|in me.
- ¹¹**Cast 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 bountiful | Spirit.**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to of|fenders,
and sinners shall be restored | to you.
- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your right|eousness.
- ¹⁵**O Lord open | 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 of|fering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart O God you will not de|spise.

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

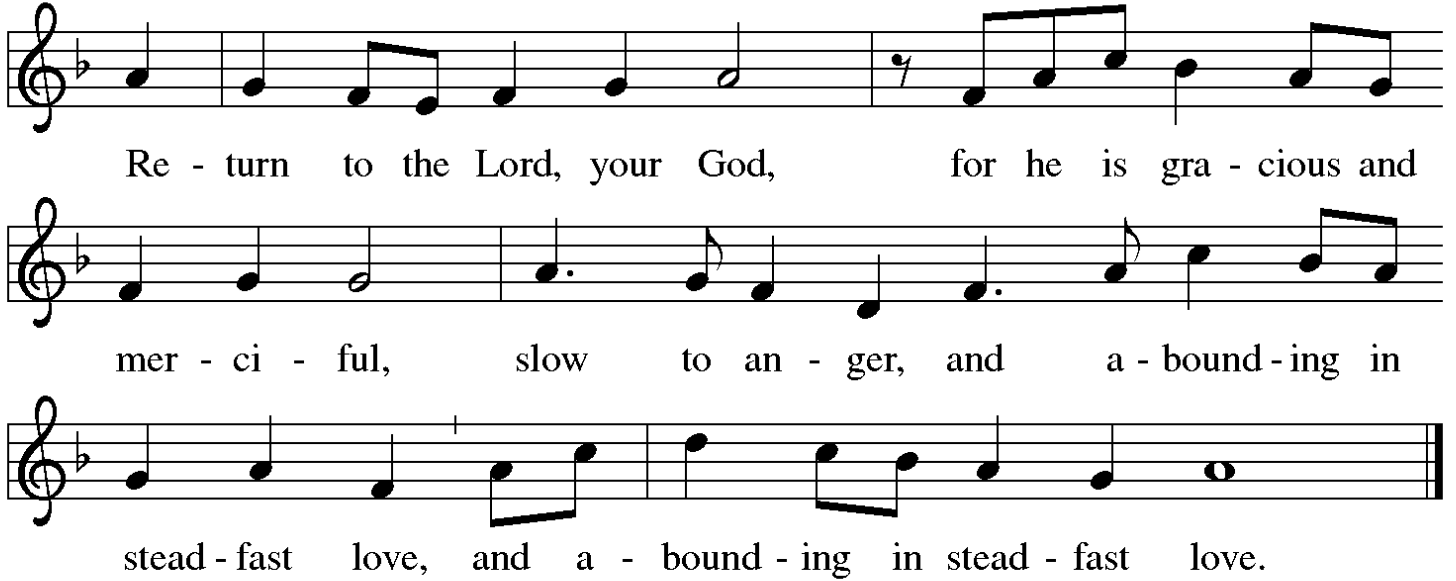
^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{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 reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

[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 is proclaimed, concluding: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

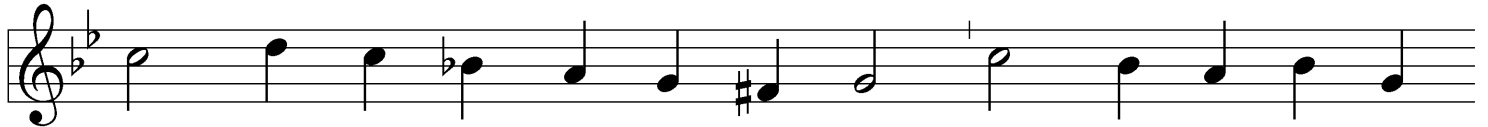
HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 310 To You, Omniscient Lord of All



1 To you, om - ni - scient Lord of all, with grief and shame I
2 My Lord and God, to you I pray, oh, cast me not in
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood be to my soul a



hum - bly call; I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
wrath a - way; let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



the sins of thought, of deed, and word. They press me sore; to
but let him draw to you my heart that tru - ly pen - i -
but grant that jus - ti - fied I may go to my house, at



you I flee:
tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
peace to be:

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–1880; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, alt.
Music: VATER UNSER, V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends 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 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

Today you are invited to receive the imposition of ashes. To receive the sign of the cross on the forehead is to remember our baptism while simultaneously acknowledging the truth of the ancient injunction:

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

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of 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.**

People wishing to receive ashes should come down the center aisle to receive ashes on their foreheads, returning to their seats by the side aisles.

After receiving ashes, individuals may kneel or sit. All are encouraged to sing.

HYMN ACS 919 Remember that You Are Dust

1* 2

Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to
dust you shall re - turn.

The musical notation is in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The first line of music is marked with a '1*' and a '2' above it, indicating a first ending and a second ending. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: Ash Wednesday liturgy
Music: CROSS OF ASHES, Mark Mummert, b. 1965
Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

HYMN Bless the Lord, My Soul

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The musical notation is in G major, 4/4 time. It features a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Psalm 103
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1998, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Please kneel.

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.**

Please stand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

OFFERING MUSIC Miserere Mei, Deus

William Byrd

*Miserere mei, Deus,
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;
et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum,
dele iniquitatem meam.*

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

Psalms 51:1

OFFERTORY ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may at last know the joy of the resurrection; through 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains two measures of music with lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff also contains two measures with lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains one measure with lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains one measure with lyrics 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with various slurs and ties.

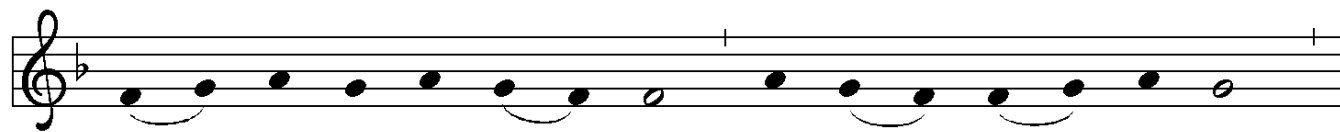
PROPER PREFACE

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.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains one measure with lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff contains one measure with lyrics 'heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff contains one measure with lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The fourth staff contains one measure with lyrics 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' The fifth staff contains one measure with lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with various slurs and ties.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER



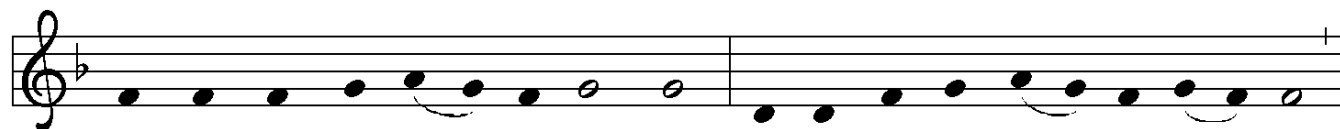
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



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 - gainst 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.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS 1010 Wind and Cold Roar



1 *Co - rre el vien-to en es - ta gran ciu - dad, mu - chos tem - bla -*
 1 Wind and cold roar through the cit - y street; some folk have no
 2 Those with - in may swell with civ - ic pride; man - y wait out -
 3 Vi - o - lence and ha - tred, near and far, ter - ror, slaugh - ter,



rán: per - dón, Se - ñor. Pa - ra u - nos hoy ha - brá ca -
 heat: for - give us, Lord. Man - y have warm homes, wool clothes to
 side: for - give us, Lord. Some have man - y chanc - es to suc -
 war: for - give us, Lord. You in - sist the hun - gry shall be



lor, pa - ra o - tros, no: per - dón, Se - ñor.
 wear; this is so un - fair: for - give us, Lord.
 ceed; oth - ers live in need: for - give us, Lord.
 fed; let us give them bread: for - give us, Lord.

Refrain / Estribillo



A - yú - da - nos a en - ten - der nues - tra
 Help us grasp how this is our sin; teach us,



cul - pa, oh Se - ñor. Nues - tras a - le - grí - as son do -
 save us by your cross, for the things we crave and seek to



lor pa - ra mu - chos hoy: per - dón, Se - ñor.
 win cost our neigh - bors loss. For - give us, Lord.

Please stand.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

BLESSING

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. And may Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Vater Unser Im Himmelreich, BWV 636

J.S. Bach



Remember
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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