

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 | 7:30 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_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.

Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor
Vicar Naeem Harry, Intern
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music cha
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator
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Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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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



- 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,



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



oh, by all your pains suf-fered once for be - low, and woe us 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, heav'n re - stored, might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, oh, from earth to



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

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

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



Text: Jiřī Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: ZŃAME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ, *Tranoscius*, 1636 Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

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.

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.

³For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against 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.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let 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.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

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

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For 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

^{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,

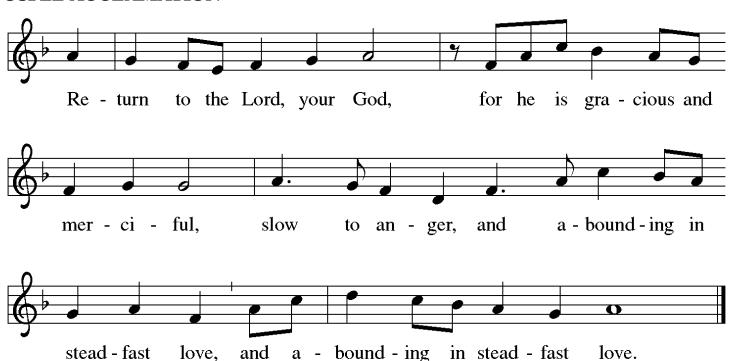
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

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



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

Silence for reflection



HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 920 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
- B Lord, mark up on my brow this sign: a stark and bar ren cross



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



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. their wan - ing light your own un - dy - ing yet by dis-cern fire. how death it - self but that dies a - way in is a flash you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505-1585

Text © 2009 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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:

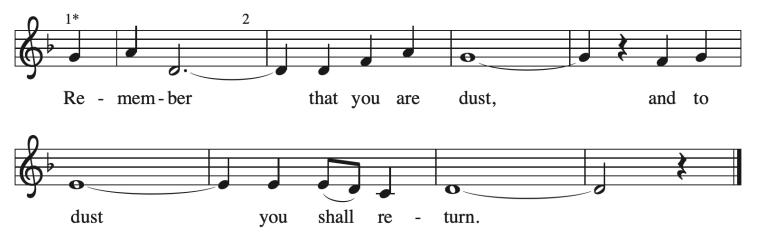
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

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, then kneel or stand at the altar rail 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



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



Text: Psalm 103

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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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.

Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.

PEACE

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

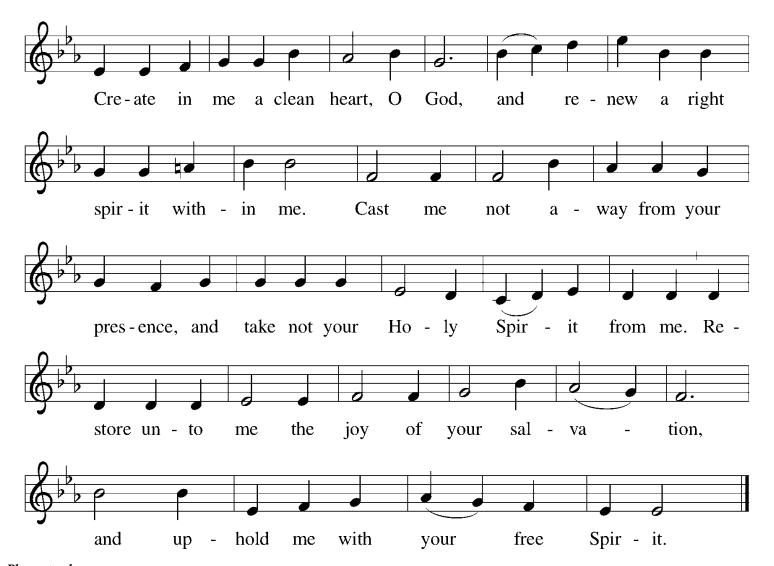
Joseph Cloakey

OFFERING MUSIC Treasures in Heaven

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for everyone who asks shall receive it, and those who seek, shall find, and to the one who knocks, it shall be opened.

adapt. from Matthew 6:19-21; 7:7-8

OFFERTORY ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart

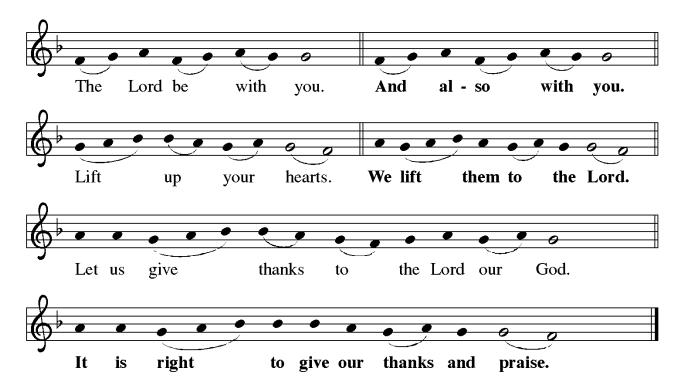


Please stand.

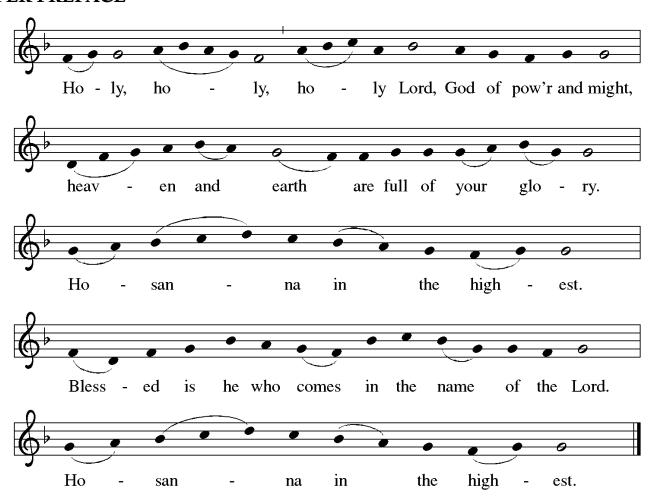
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

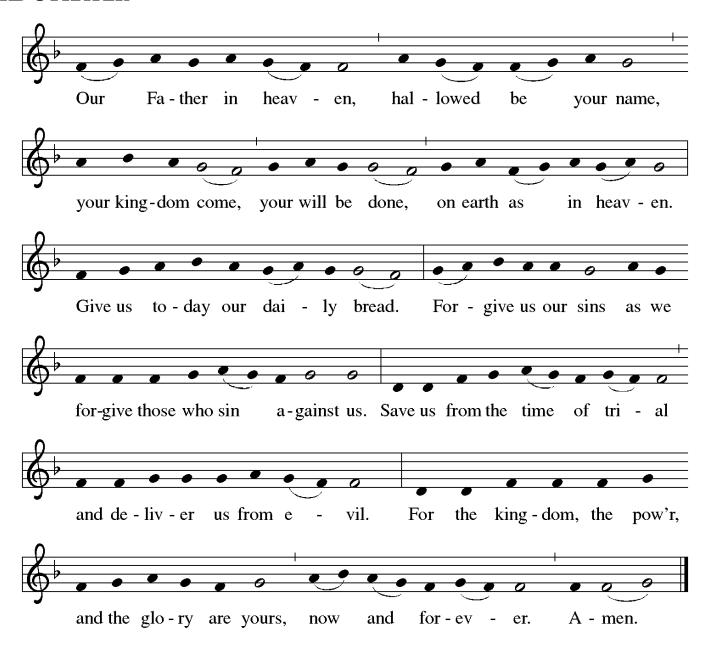


PROPER PREFACE



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

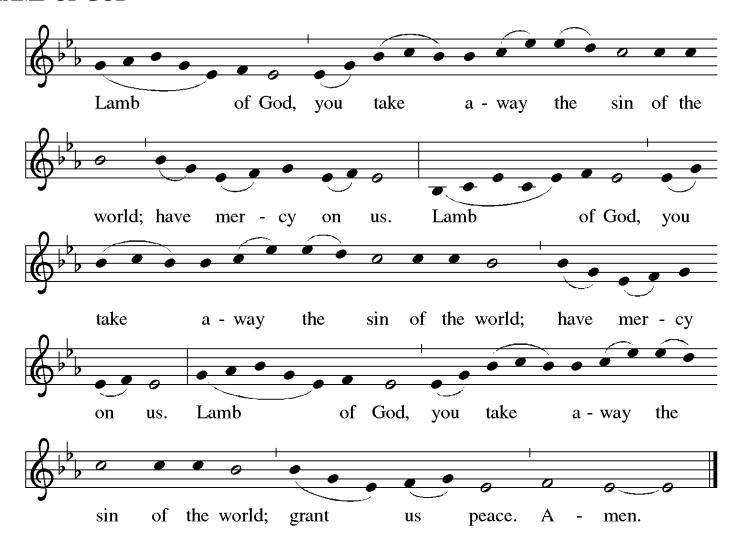


RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

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. The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. The assisting minister serves the wine/grape juice 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



COMMUNION HYMN ACS 922 When We Are Tested



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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COMMUNION HYMN ELW 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus



Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

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 609 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



- Chief of sin ners though I be, Je sus shed his blood for me,
- 2 Oh, the height of Je sus' love! High er than the heav'ns a bove,
- 3 On ly Je sus can im part balm to heal the wound ed heart,
- 4 Chief of sin ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
- 5 O my Sav-ior, help af-ford by your Spir-it and your word!



died might live high, I might nev - er die. I on lives that that deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as ter - ni - tv. e peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the to heav'n, soul my wants to him are known, all sor-rows all my are his own. When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



the branch is As the vine, I am his, and he is mine. to Love that found me—won-drous thought—found me when I sought him not. walk with God the way that E - noch trod. faith and hope to in He sus-tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife. grace in time need sup - ply live and when of while I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1870

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Chorale Prelude on *Gethsemane*

Christopher Harlow-Jennings

