

# Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022 | 7:30 PM



**Everyone is welcome.** As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

**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.

**To assist you during worship:** Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy 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. Individual wired devices coming soon!



## Ministers: The People of St. John's

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Donna Garzinsky, 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.*

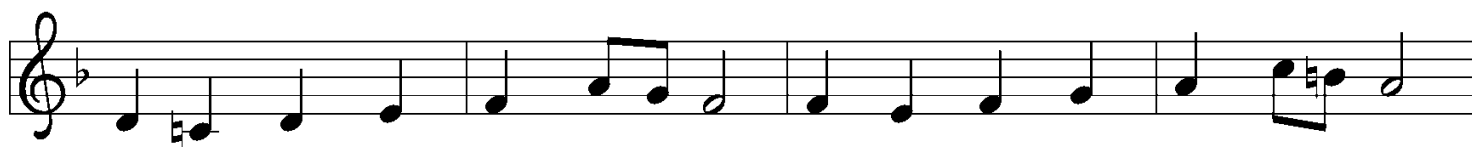
GATHERING HYMN ELW 601 Savior, When in Dust to You



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 - turing 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!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## 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

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



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

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

*Please stand.*

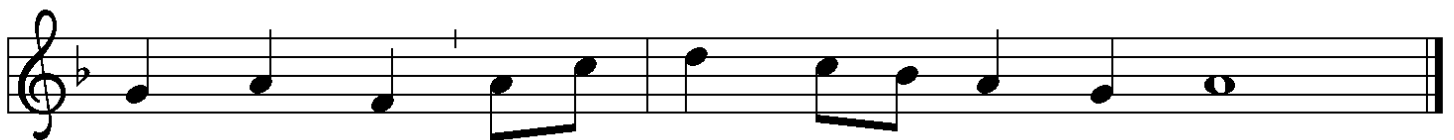
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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:] <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 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*

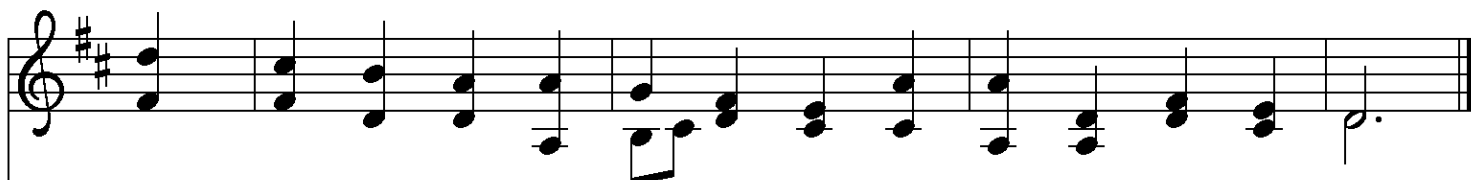


*Please stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 745 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright



- 1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.
- 2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
- 3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;
- 4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength - ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es in your sight, we may, we must draw near.  
And when to meet you we pre - pare, Lord, meet us on our way.  
a strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live;  
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone.  
we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.  
Music: SONG 67, Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625



*Please be seated.*

## INVITATION TO LENT

*Please kneel.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures marked '1\*' and '2'. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The lyrics 'Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with notes: G5 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The lyrics 'dust you shall re - turn.' are written below the notes.

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

*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

Lord in your 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING MUSIC** Lamb of God, Most Holy

Arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy, who on the cross didst suffer,  
patient still and lowly, thyself to scorn didst offer;  
our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken:  
have mercy on us, O Jesu!

**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.

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats, and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. There are some slurs and ties used throughout the piece. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*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) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: "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.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes with various phrasing slurs.

## 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) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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.", and "Ho - san - na in the high - est." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes with various phrasing slurs.

# 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.



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

*Please be seated.*

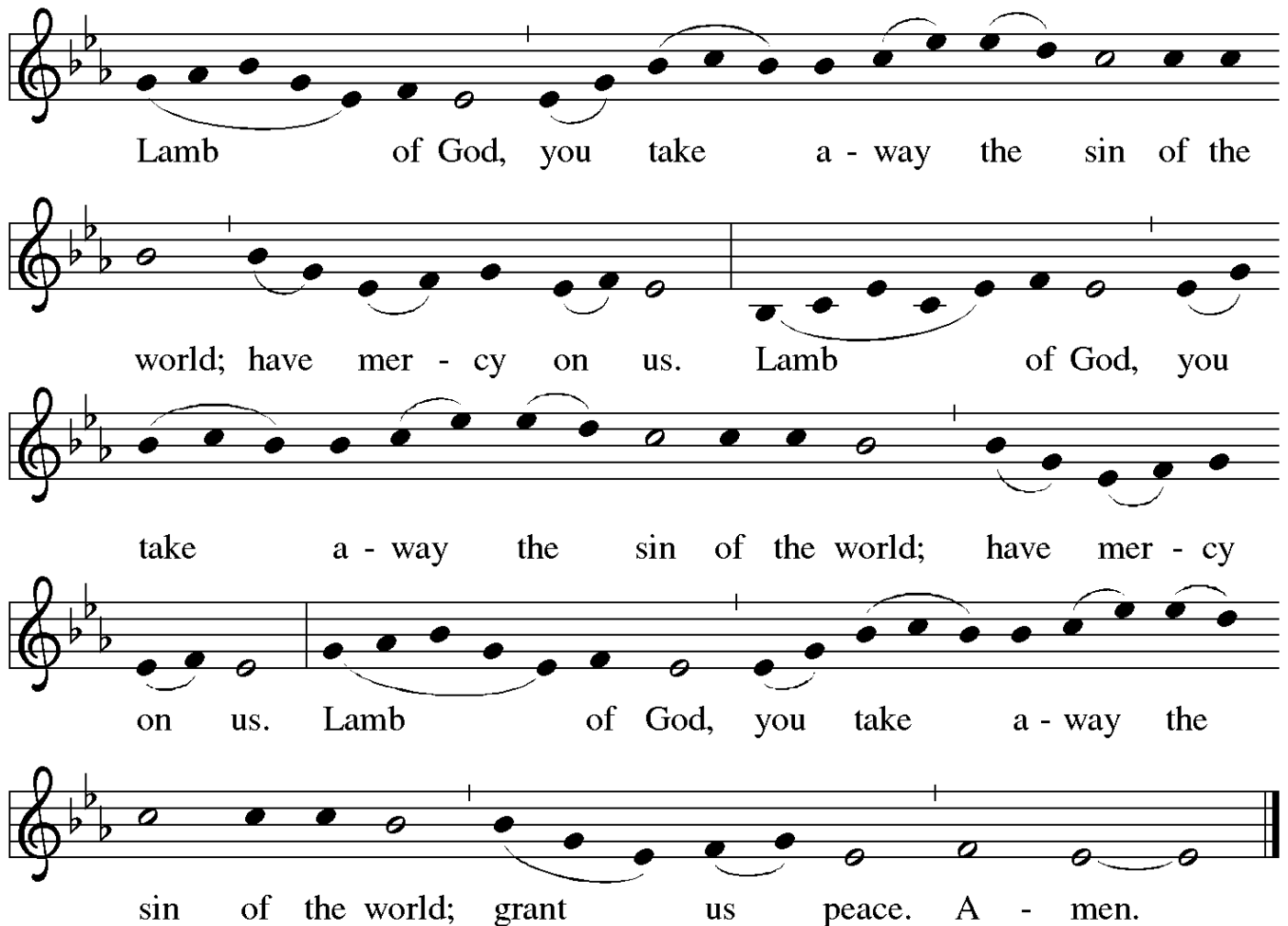
## RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*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.  
The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.  
You may pick up your personal cup, being careful to only touch that cup.  
Step aside and drink the wine, placing the used cup in the return tray.*

***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.

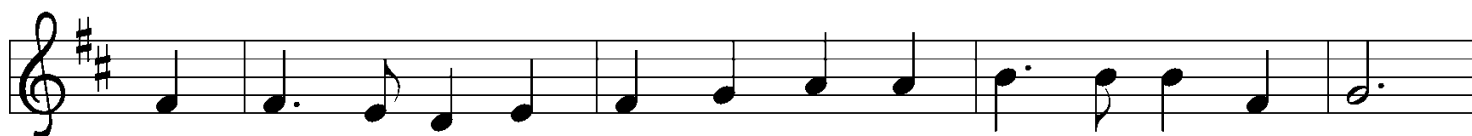
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

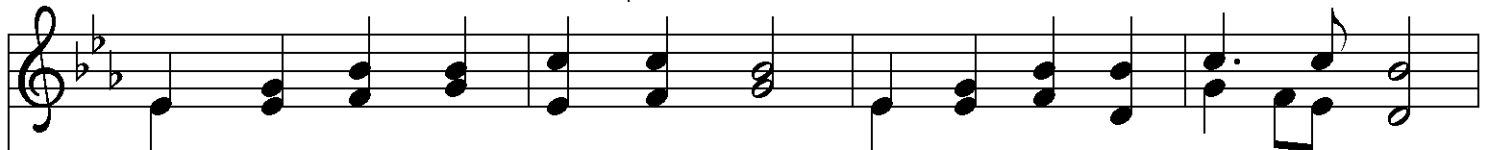
Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

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

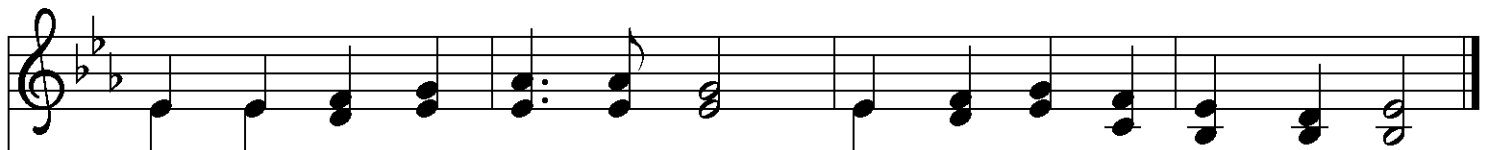
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 609 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



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



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





*Please stand.*

## BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

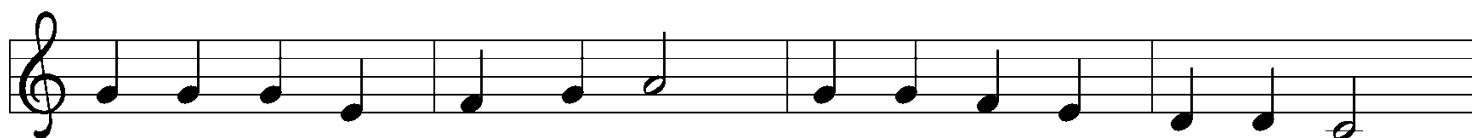
## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW 811 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



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



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



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



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

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.

Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

## 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 TFF 234 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart,

in my heart, in my heart,  
in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Chorale Prelude on *Der am Kreuz*

Arr. Ch. H. Rinck

### All Things of Dust to Dust Return

All things of dust to dust return  
on earth and in the sky.  
The hottest, brightest suns that burn  
in time grow dim and die.  
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,  
the newborn young that play,  
the leaves that fill the forest floor  
revert to dust and clay.

Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow  
so I may comprehend  
that ev'ry moment here and now  
links me to that same end  
I share with all that breathe and burn,  
that flare and fade and tire  
yet by their waning light discern  
your own undying fire.

Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:  
a stark and barren cross  
reminding me that though divine  
you know my pain and loss,  
and at the touch of dust and ash  
awake my heart to view  
how death itself is but a flash  
that dies away in you.

ACS 920

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

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