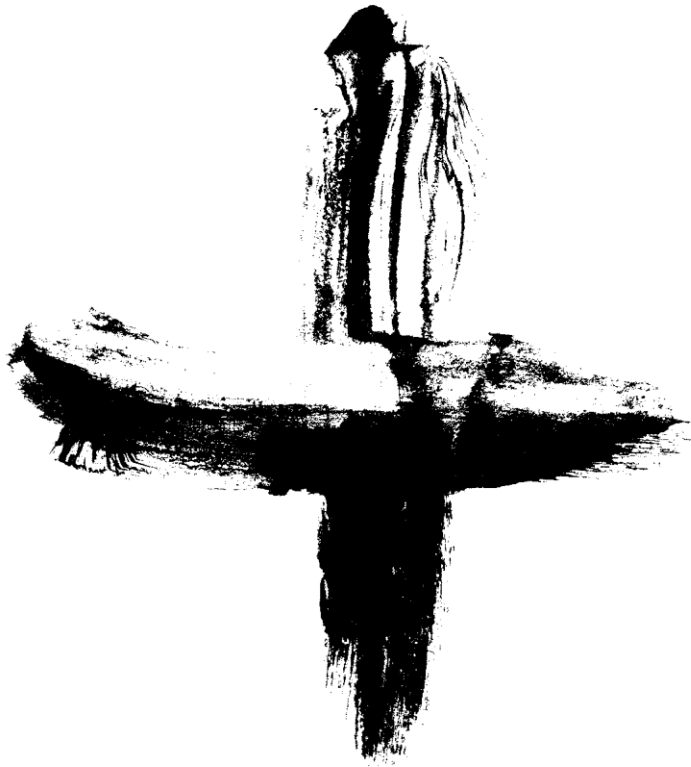


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

# Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER REQUESTS

For sections with a \*, please stand as you are able.

## GATHERING

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

### \*GATHERING HYMN: Lord Jesus, Think on Me Green book #309

## Lord Jesus, Think on Me

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,

from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.  
 Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

**\*GREETING**

L: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: 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.

**ALL: Amen.**

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

L: <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?'"

L: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

L: <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

L: <sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**ALL: <sup>4</sup>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.**

L: <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**ALL: <sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

L: <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**ALL: <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

L: <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

**ALL: <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**ALL: <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation**

**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**ALL: <sup>14</sup>Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

L: <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**ALL: <sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

L: <sup>17</sup>The 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**

L: <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.

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,

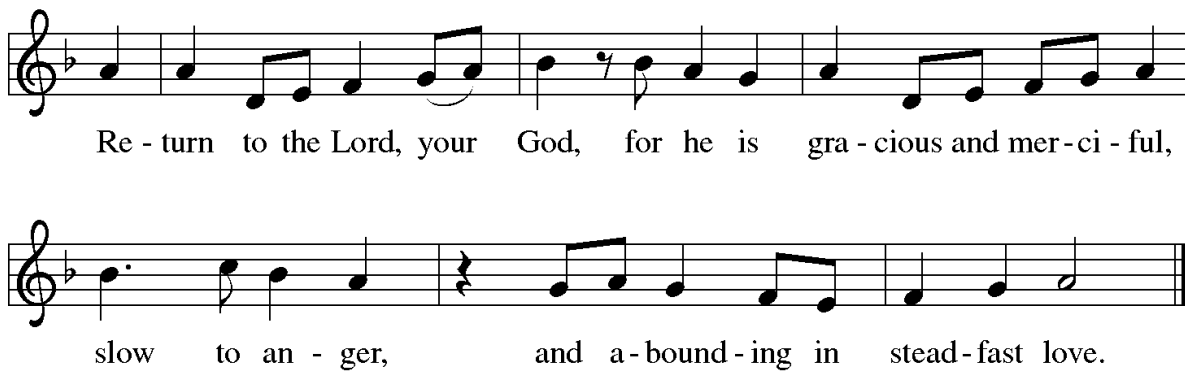
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

L: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

L: [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.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON: Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: Restore in Us, O God**  
**Blue Book: #662**

**Restore in Us, O God**



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your  
 4 Three per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your



love; re - new your im - age in our hearts,  
 pow'r; from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives  
 joy; bap - tize us in the ris - en life  
 grace, that we, when all our search - ing ends,



and all our sins re - move.  
 like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
 that death can - not de - stroy.  
 may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
 Music: CATECHUMEN, David Hurd, b. 1950

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**INVITATION TO LENT**

**L:** 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

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most holy and merciful God,

**ALL: 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.**

L: 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.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: 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.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**



L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**ALL: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

L: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May the ashes that we receive 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.

**ALL: Amen.**

*At this time, people may come forward to receive ashes. The minister will mark your forehead with a cross of ashes, saying "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

*After finishing with the ashes, the minister continues.*

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**ALL: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**ALL: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

L: 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.

**ALL: Amen.**

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Each prayer ends with these words:*

L: Merciful God,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **\*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*\*\* You are invited to greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be sure to have your neighbor's consent before sharing greetings with a handshake or other physical touch. Otherwise, sharing a wave, peace sign or a high-five are great ways to share the peace from a distance.*

### **\*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.*

L: Let us pray together:

**All: God of good gifts,**

**receive these and all our offerings**

**as we present them in faithful service**

**for the sake of your gospel.**

**Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal**

**as you pour out your very presence**

**through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.**

### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

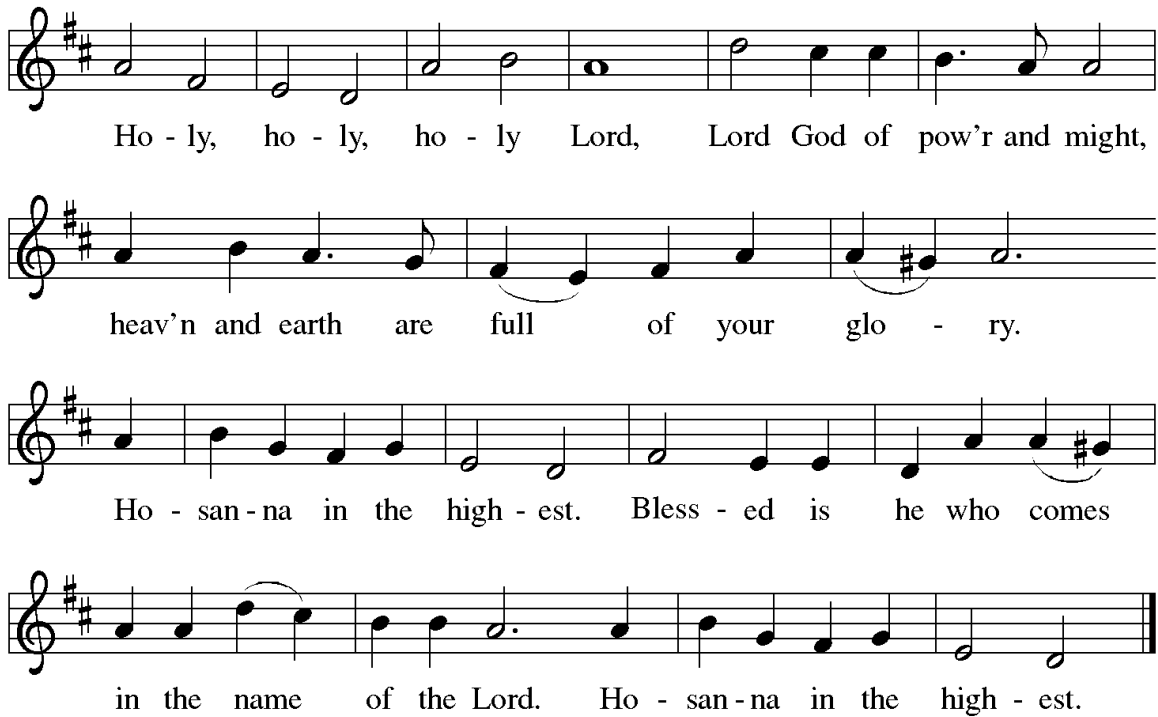
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
 and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
 that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
 we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n 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.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
 Amen.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.*

**HYMN: Just as I Am, Without One Plea**

**Green Book #296**

*To be sung during the distribution of communion*

## Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

5 shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 6 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
 7 man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 8 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

9 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 10 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 because thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in God's grace, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER**

L: Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

**All: Amen.**

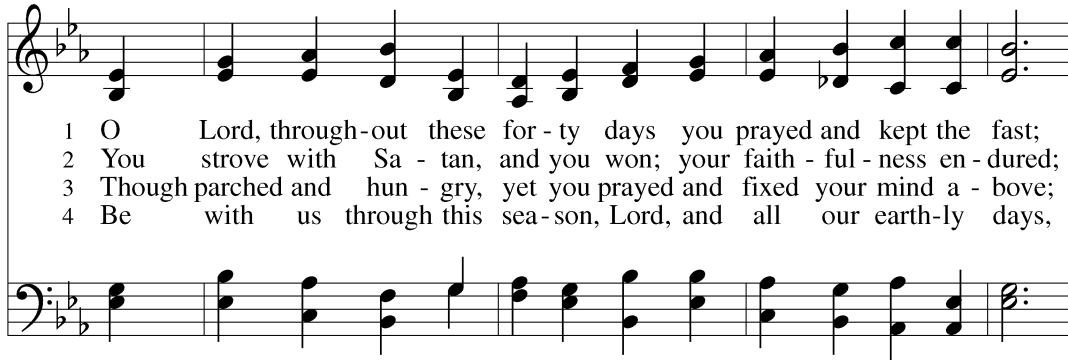
**\*BLESSING**

L: God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

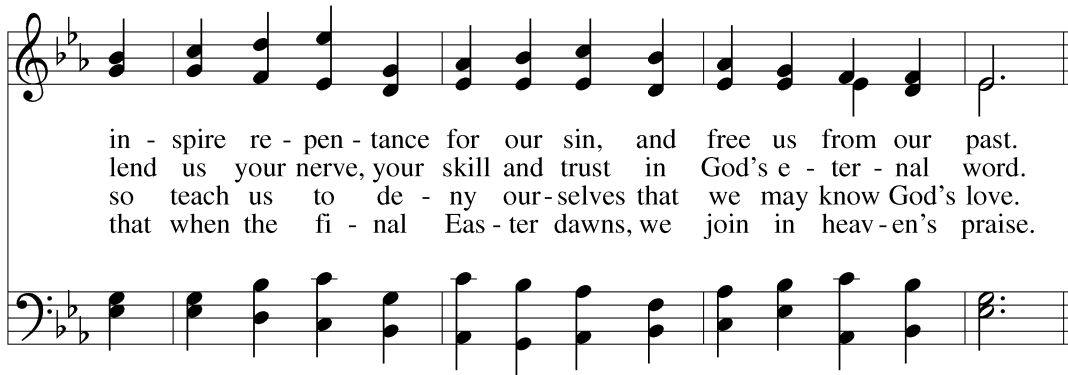
**ALL: Amen**

**\*SENDING HYMN: O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days  
Green book # 99**

## O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.  
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930  
Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

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### \*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

All: Thanks be to God.

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# **UPCOMING:**

## **Sunday School**

Join us for our next Sunday School on February 26<sup>th</sup>! We will be painting so please feel free to send a smock with your child (or clothes that can get messy.)

## **Save the date: March 25<sup>th</sup> Spaghetti Supper**

Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Supper on March 25<sup>th</sup>. We'll be going back to in-person dining with a basket raffle! Stay tuned for a sign-up and more details.

## **Bible Study:**

Bible study in the book of Matthew continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. There will be no meeting on Ash Wednesday. Bible study will continue through Lent when we add in some Lenten Devotions, too.

## **Choir**

Choir will be meeting tonight following worship.