

# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

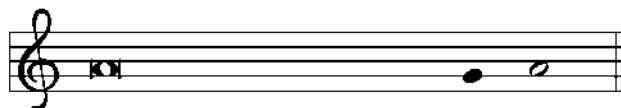
7:00pm

## PSALM 51:1-17

Read Responsively.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
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.  
Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.  
Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.  
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



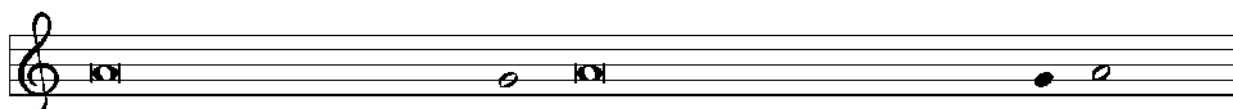
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



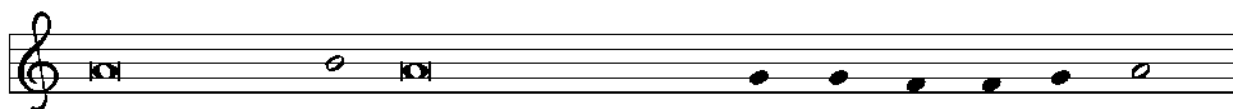
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

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 Word of the Lord.

**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 Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

**P** The holy gospel is recorded in the book of Matthew.

**C** **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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON



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

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

oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
 by the dread, mys-te-ri-ous 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-ifice,  
 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!

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen



## INVITATION TO LENT

P 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

P 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,

**C 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.**

P 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.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P 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.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- C Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- C Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
- C Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
- C Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
- C Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- C Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**



## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us  
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the ashes.  
Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

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

*After those who desire ashes have received them, the minister continues.*

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
C **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P 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.  
C **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war (*regions in conflict may be named*). Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church (*especially Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, whom we commemorate today*). Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*All share a sign of peace and reconciliation.*

*(please be seated)*

## ANTHEM

*Ashes*

Conry

## OFFERTORY

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.

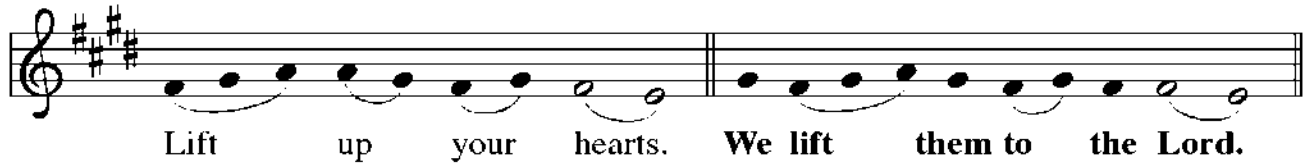
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name. **C Amen.**

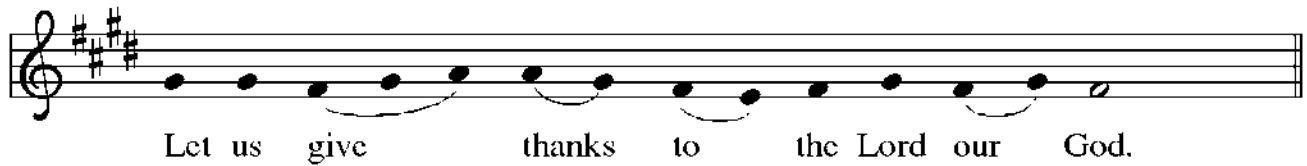
# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



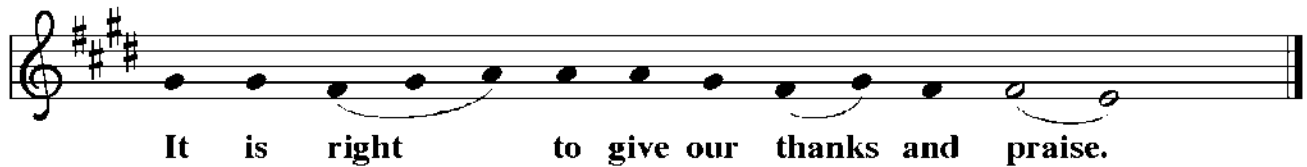
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



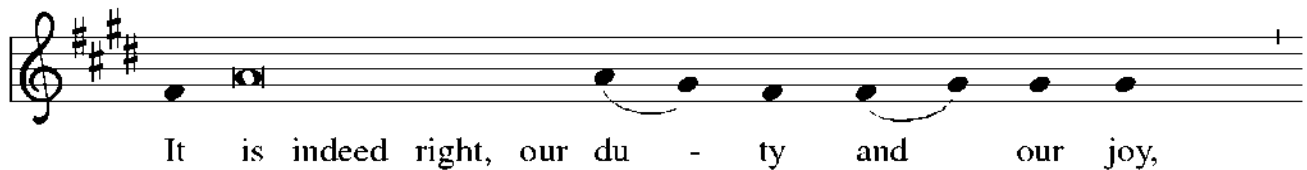
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



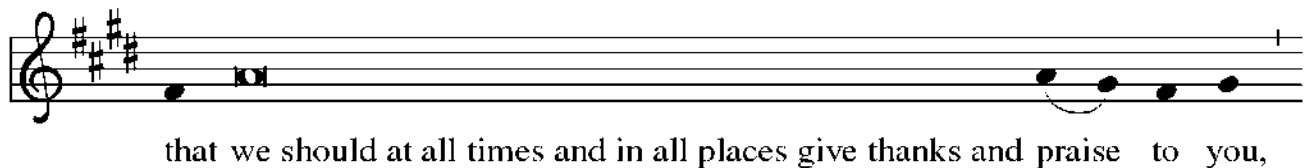
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.



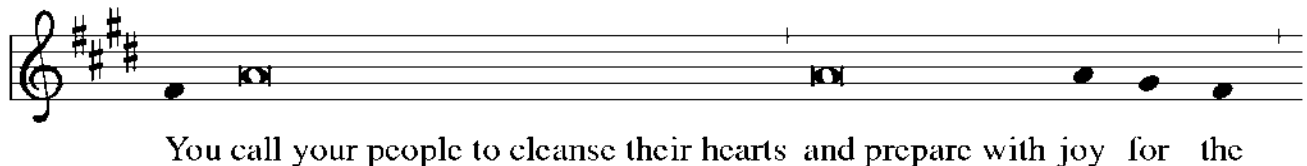
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,




that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



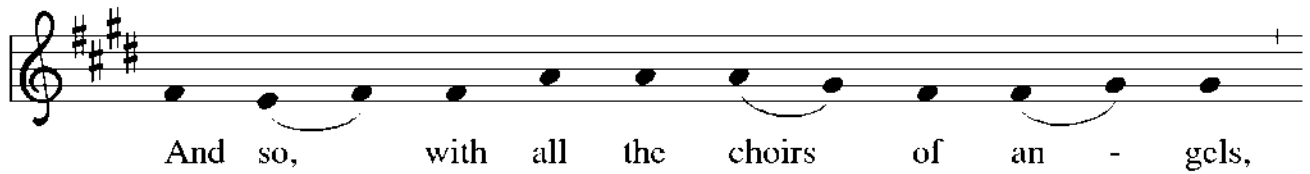
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



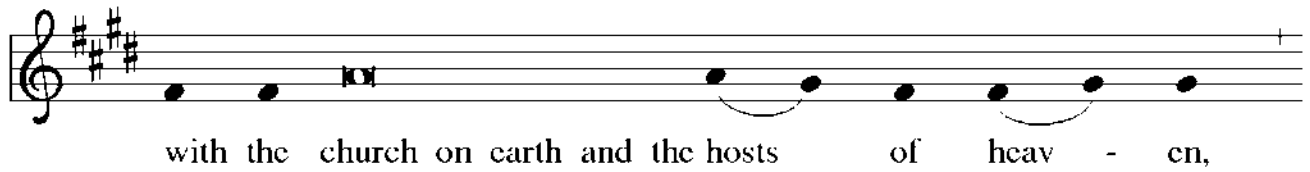
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,




we may come to the full - ness of your grace.




And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



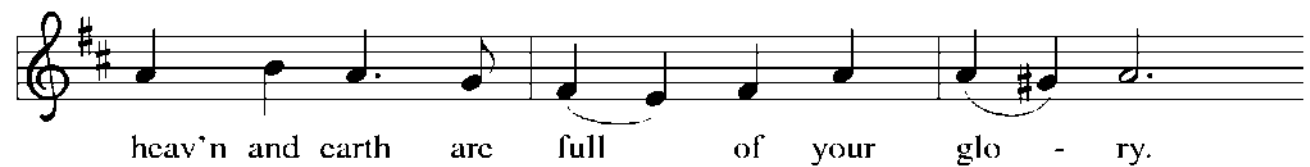
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



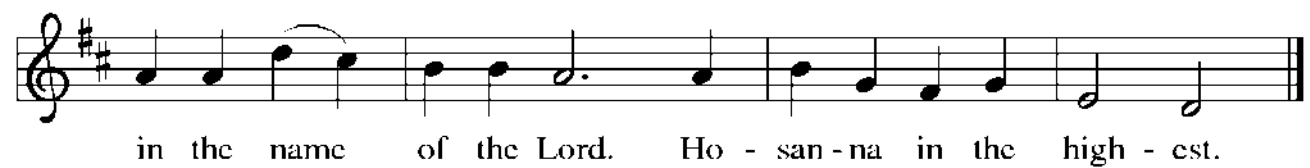
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory....  
....to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!



# HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

## *Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me* ELW 623

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

ELW 608

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

P Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✝ give you peace. .

C **Amen.**



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

**DISMISSAL**

- A** Go in peace. Share your bread..  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Worship Assistants**

**Assisting Minister:** Jean Warren

**Usher:** Julie Auger, John Auger

**Reader:** Nancy Goyda

**Sound:** Kris McMahan

**Streamer:** Paul Warren

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, Delaware 19707

(302) 239-6481 [www.glcde.org](http://www.glcde.org)

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Ministers: The people of Grace Lutheran Church

The Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian