

BETHANY

Lutheran Church



Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
March 2, 2022
7:00 p.m.

We gather in silence, marking the beginning of this season of penitence.

PSALM 51: 1 – 17

Avon Gillespie

ANTIPHON: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

L Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;*
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

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

L For I know | my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

C **Against you only | have I sinned*
and done what is evil | in your sight.**

L And so you are justified | when you speak*
and upright | in your judgment.

ANTIPHON

C **Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,*
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

L For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,*
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

C **Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

L Make me hear of | joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

C **Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

ANTIPHON

L Create in me a clean | heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

C **Cast me not away | from your presence,*
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.**

L Give me the joy of your saving | help again*
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

C **I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,*
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

ANTIPHON

L Deliver me from | death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

C **Open my | lips, O Lord,***
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
L Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,*
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

ANTIPHON

We stand.

EXHORTATION AND CONFESSION

The minister exhorts the congregation, then silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most holy and merciful Father:

C **We confess to you and to one another,**
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own 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, Lord.**

P We have been deaf 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, Lord.**

P We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.

For our blindness to human need and suffering,

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
C **accept our repentance, Lord.**
P For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
C **accept our repentance, Lord.**
P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
C **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**
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 through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
C **Amen.**
We sit.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All who wish to receive the imposition of ashes are invited to come forward. The following words are spoken during the imposition: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

After all who desire ashes have received them, we stand for the conclusion of the confession.

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 Lord,
C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**
P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners,
but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.
Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit,
that those things may please him which we do on this day,
that the rest of our life may be pure and holy,
and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P 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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1–12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

(The reading continues on the following page.)

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

L Word of God, word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 130

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice:
Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities,
O Lord, who shall stand?
But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait,
And in His Word do I hope.
My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning:
I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy,
And with Him is plenteous redemption.
And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

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.

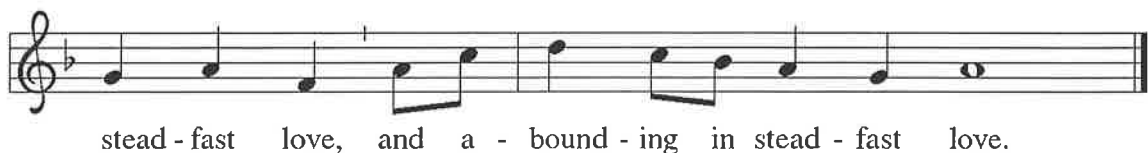
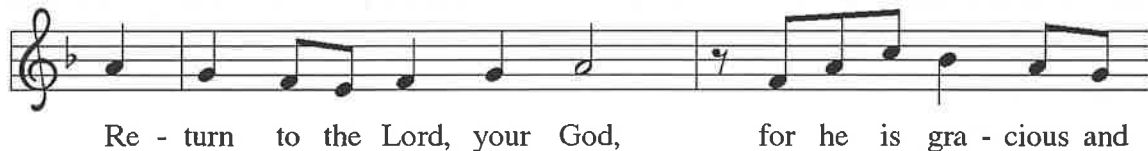
^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s 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.

L Word of God, word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Joel 2:13



HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **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. ²So 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Mikyska
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

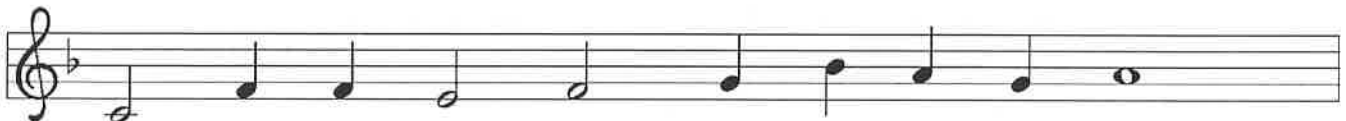
ELW #321



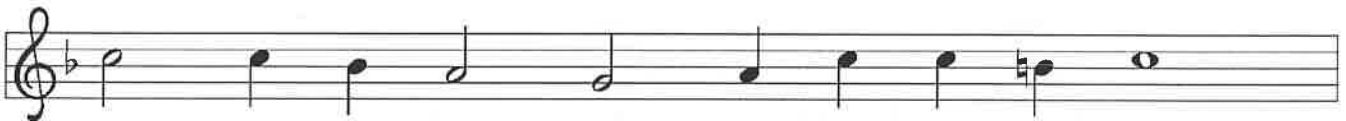
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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NICENE CREED

A Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C **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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief (*especially*). Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you (*especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, whom we commemorate today*). Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

We sit.

+ MEAL +

OFFERING MUSIC: Plein Chant

Francois Couperin

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

ELW #188

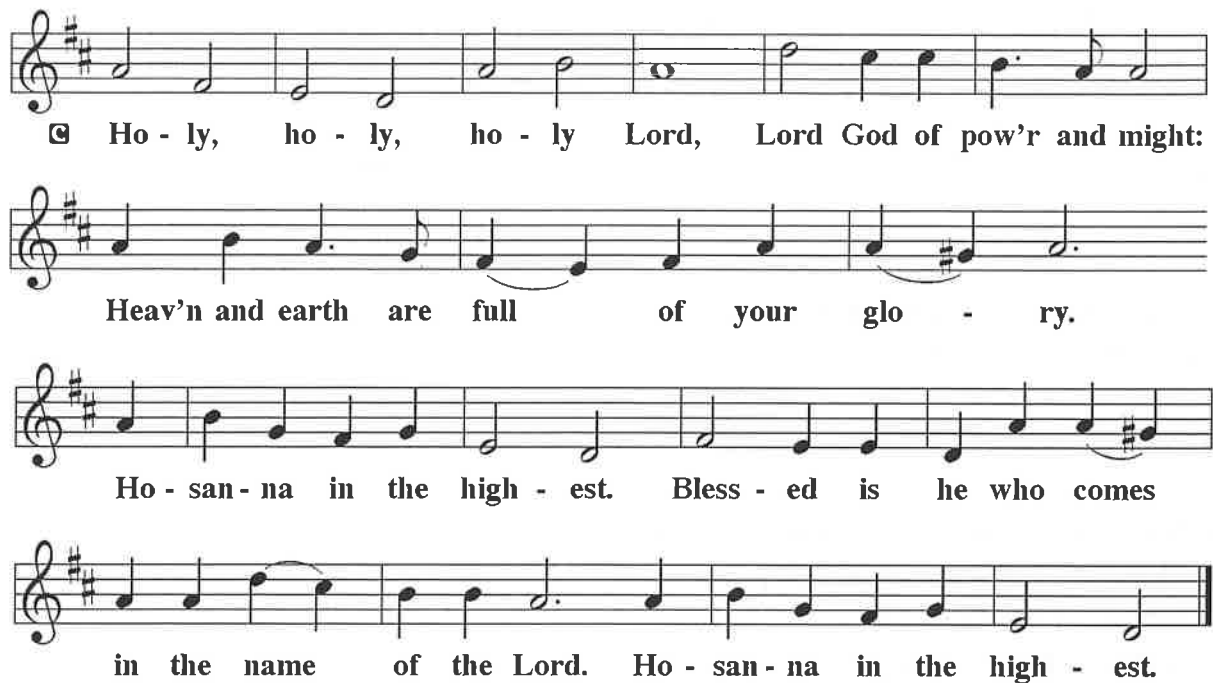
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P Let us pray. God our provider,
C **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.
And so, 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.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
 the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,
 the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;
 and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
 and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember
our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Breathe new life into us and raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
To you, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

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

C 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.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C Thanks be to God.

P Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.



AGNUS DEI



O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,



have mer - cy up-on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -



est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up-on us!



O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,



grant us thy peace! A - - - men

COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

White grape juice, a non-alcoholic alternative, and gluten-FREE rice wafers are available upon request.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

HYMN: Just As I Am Without One Plea

ELW #592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832-1915

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with the bread of heaven,
 the body and blood of your Son.

In your mercy, sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the
 song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN: On My Heart Imprint Your Image

ELW #811

Following the dismissal we depart in silence.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgy Credits

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LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister
Ed Schalk, Assisting Minister
Alan Spear, Organist
Lynn Dreymler, Reader
Fred Holch, A/V
Ann Holch, Ruth Beck, Altar Guild
Ed Schalk, Marty Offutt-Gruber, Communion Ass't
Michael Goro, Adam Goro, Acolytes
Jon Habegger, Bill Dreymler, Ushers
Festival Choir

STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor
Mark Waldron, Pastoral Associate
Director of Worship/Music
Alan Spear, Organist
Steven Ritter, Visitation Pastor
Darlene Hutchens, Office Administrator
Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant
Mark Kohlmeier, Financial Secretary
Allison Mikyska, Deacon Intern
Mary Stola, Faith Community Nurse

YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Todd Toles, Vice President
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Brad Hirt

Pastor Jeff Mikyska
Marty Offutt-Gruber
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Marsha Schuster
Owen Stahl

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to council@bethanybatavia.org.



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What is Lent and why is it important?

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, many Christians seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; serve by giving alms; and practice self-control through fasting. We are called to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of fasting during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents.

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.