

Ash Wednesday



Lent

RETURN TO THE LORD
your God,
FOR HE IS
gracious and
MERCIFUL.

JOEL 2:13

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2931 www.osluth.org
Pastor Randy Schroeder*

*Purdue Lutheran Ministry
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2398 www.plm.org
Pastor Kristin Rice*

February 14, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

All are welcome here
All people of faith, All people of doubt
All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression
All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here
Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray
Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks
Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here
All are redeemed by a gracious God



Introduction

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.

The Gathering

Prelude Music

Let My Spirit Always Sing (setting by David Sims, 2005 Jane Marshall, admin. Augsburg Fortress)
Just As I Am (setting by Raymond H. Haan, 1993 MorningStar Music Publishers)

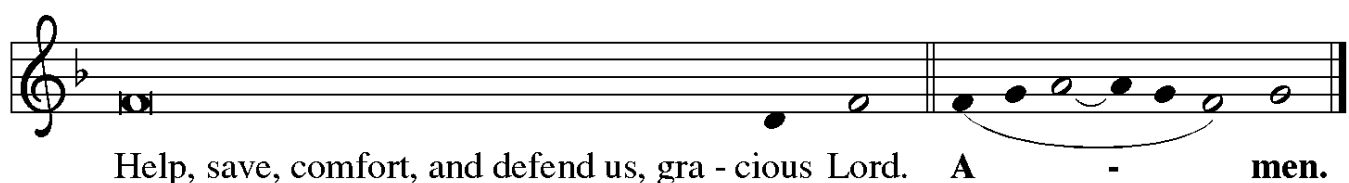
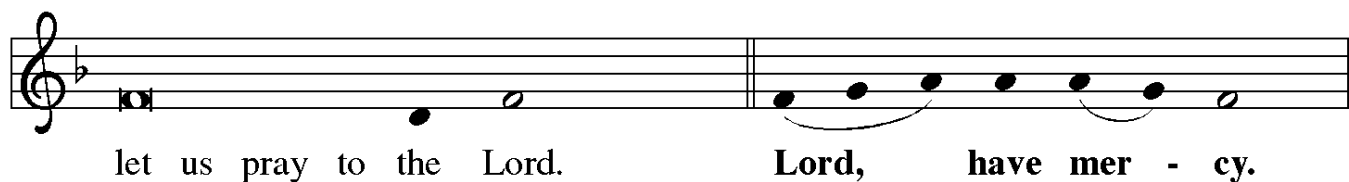
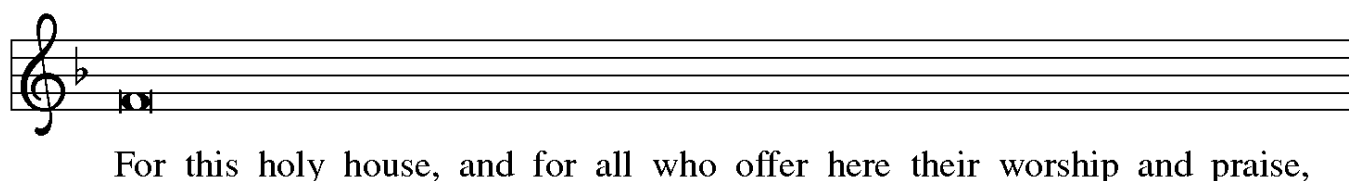
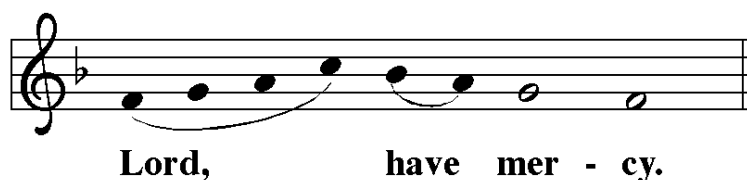
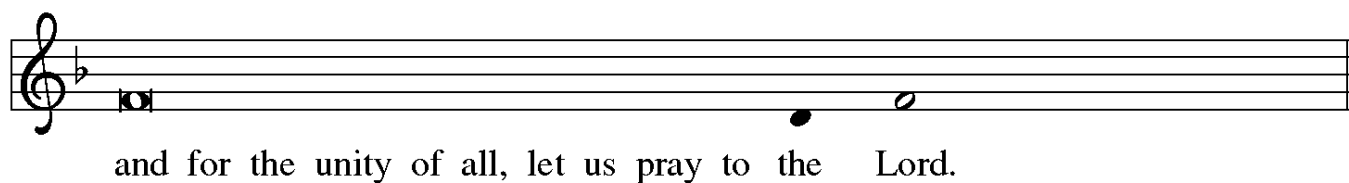
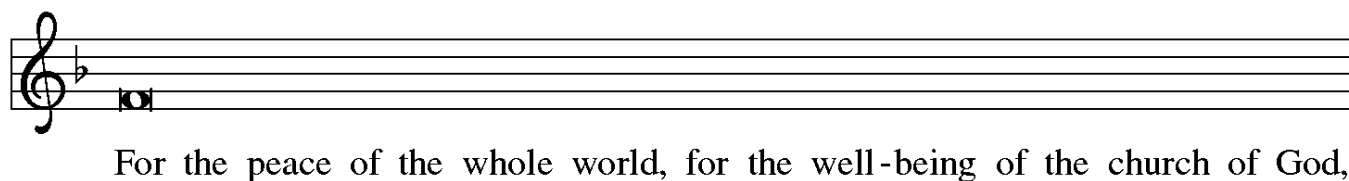
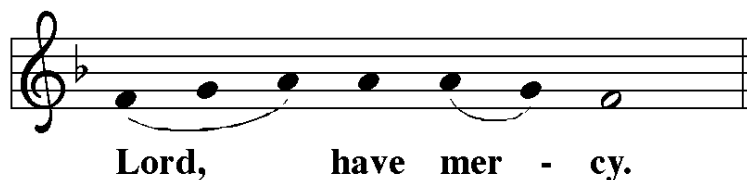
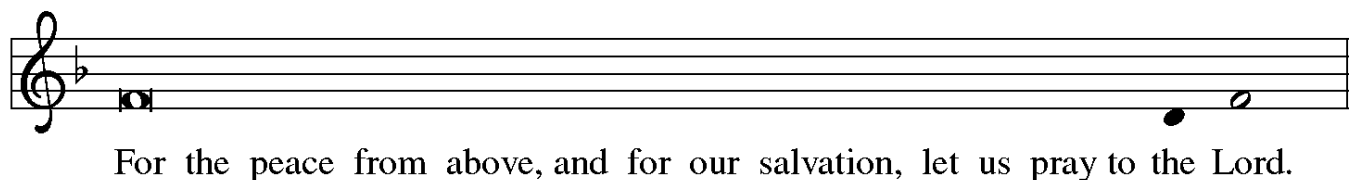
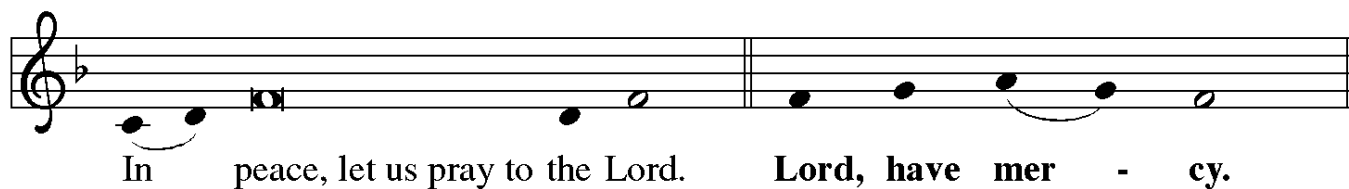
Stand

Call to Worship

PR We gather together
 to pause in God’s presence,
 to make space for joy as God’s people,
 and to hold in our prayers and in our hearts
 the reality of our world: grief and joy entwined.
 We gather in the name of
 the One who wove joy throughout the cosmos,
 the One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows,
 the One who whispers joy to our hearts still.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie



Greeting

PR The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

PR God beyond time, you breathed life into our dusty bones. When we rush too fast, trying to escape our mortality, you slow us down and teach us to be still. Be present with our whirlwind impatience, our ash-strewn hopes and dreams. Set the stage for joy in our lives; wait with us until it comes.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ACS, hymn 918, Cantor sings verses & Congregation sings refrain :
Now Is the Time of Grace

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9

Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen

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Verses-Leader

- 1 This is the fast that God would choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to let the captives go free,
and to break the yoke of oppression. *Refrain*
- 2 Sharing your bread with the hungry
and welcoming homeless in,
offering hope and offering help,
this is what God Requires. *Refrain*
- 3 Then shall your light break forth as dawn,
and healing shall come to you quickly;
then you shall call and God shall answer,
God's love shall go before you. *Refrain*

The Word

L A reading from the book of Joel.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
 a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’ ”

L Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-17 (Read responsively by whole verse)

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**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.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

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.

PR The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ 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.

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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

PR The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day, ELW (red), hymn 636: *How Small Our Span of Life*

1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
 3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
 4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch-ing of a breath,
 our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
 to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
 il - lu - min - ing our pil-grim-age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
 While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,
 You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end
 for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass-ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
 while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
 and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.
 for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional

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Invitation to Lent

PR Keeping up appearances is exhausting. Pretending to be something we are not takes a toll on our spirits. The illusion of perfection makes us weary. Lent invites us into a place of freedom. Let us speak the truth about ourselves and know the truth about God. Trusting in God's abundant, living mercy, let us pray. (Time for silent reflection) ...

C **Amen**

PR Friends in Christ, God Created us to experience joy in communion with the Holy, to love one another, and to live in peace with all of God's creation. However, sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not experience the fullness of life our creator intended for us. This grieves our heavenly Creator, whose sole desire is that we turn from sin to God and truly live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to repent, to take up our cross and to follow Jesus. We are to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

I invite you to commit yourselves, to turn from your sin toward God. Return to God with all your heart.

Confession of Sin

An Extended time of silence for self-examination is shared. You are invited, if able, to kneel, during the confession. Wherever necessary, please share space, or move to a vacant space.

PR 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.**

PR 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.**

PR We have not been honest about our sin, our shame, or our guilt. We choose to hide in darkness and shame, rather than walk in your light..

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

PR We have been disobedient to you, O God. We admit our helplessness this night, and something still fights within us to prove ourselves worthy, rather than admit our failure

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

- PR We have been deaf to your call to love others as Christ loves us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess to you our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people, our placing the material in life before the love of God, neighbor, or ourselves.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our anger, our frustration, our need to inflict our will on others, our envy of others.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our covetous love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty with that truth in our daily lives.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our negligence in prayer and worship, our unwillingness to yield to your Lordship, and our failure to witness to what we have received from you.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our judgmental hearts, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, our refusal to follow your path of peace, our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our blindness to the needs and suffering of others, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- PR We confess our failure to honor your presence among us, to be community to each other, our willingness to share our lives, our hopes and our fears with one another.
C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

A time for additional silent or spoken confession is shared

- PR Restore us, O God, for we cannot restore ourselves, and let your anger depart from us.
C **Hear us, Lord, for we are in bondage to sin. Redeem us by your grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. (Pastor marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.)

Hymn during Imposition of Ashes, ACS 919: *Remember That You Are Dust*



* *May be sung in canon*

Text: Ash Wednesday liturgy

Music: CROSS OF ASHES, Mark Mummert, b. 1965

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After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit.

PR By our dying to self, and returning fully to you, O Lord,
By our dying with Christ in our baptism,
By Christ's death on the cross,
By your grace alone, O God,

C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of resurrection (+) and new life!**
Amen!

PR 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

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.*) 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*) Nathan and Haley, Jeanette, Sheila, Suzanne, Jean, and Megan. 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. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- PR Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
- C **Amen.**
- Peace**
- PR The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C **And also with you.**

The Meal

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today's distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, usher) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshipping online and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played.

Stand

The Great Thanksgiving

PR God is with you.
C **And also with you.**

PR Rejoice with full hearts.
C **We offer them to God.**

PR Let us give thanks to our God.
C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PR God, there is no time, no place
where you are not present,
and there is no time, no place
where we should not practice the joy of praising you:
even here, even now, in our ordinary lives.
As we give thanks, we join the choir
of our ancestors and our heirs
and all God's angels
as they time their breath to the rhythm of joy
and sing of heaven despite the world.



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. Ho -



san-na. 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.

PR God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy.
Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood.
Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future
in a covenant promise.

Moses cradled your law in his arms
and the Israelites found wilderness life
where they should have died.
The prophets read your faithfulness
traced indelibly on their hearts.
Your love sent us Jesus
and his persistent, irrational joy:
dripping with the Jordan's baptismal flood,
teaching in the crowd's beating heart,
tossing the tables of empire and profit,
falling like a seed into warm dark soil
as he offered his life for us all.

On the last night of his life, as evening fell,
Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.
He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,
 This is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended, the shadows closing in,
Jesus took the cup, blessed it,
and invited everyone 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.

In the heart of fear and pain,
God plants the seed of our joy:

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

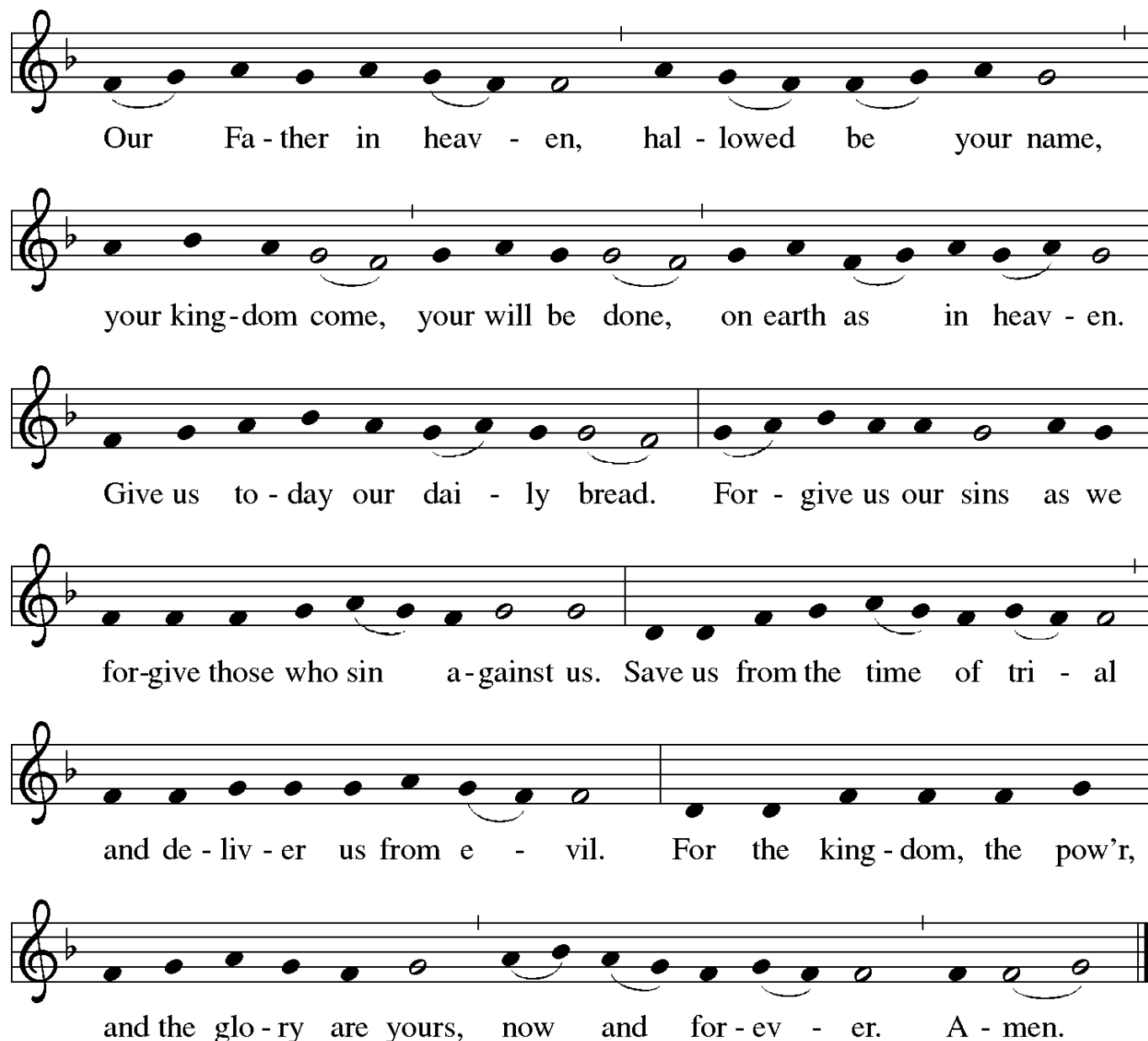
PR Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup,
Christ's body and blood,
the food that gives us the strength to persist
until joy appears.
Send your Spirit upon us
and fortify us to be your body, too,
a wellspring of hope for a world in need.

All glory, power, and honor are yours,
God of brilliant resurrection and quiet joy,
today and every day.

C **Amen.**

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

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

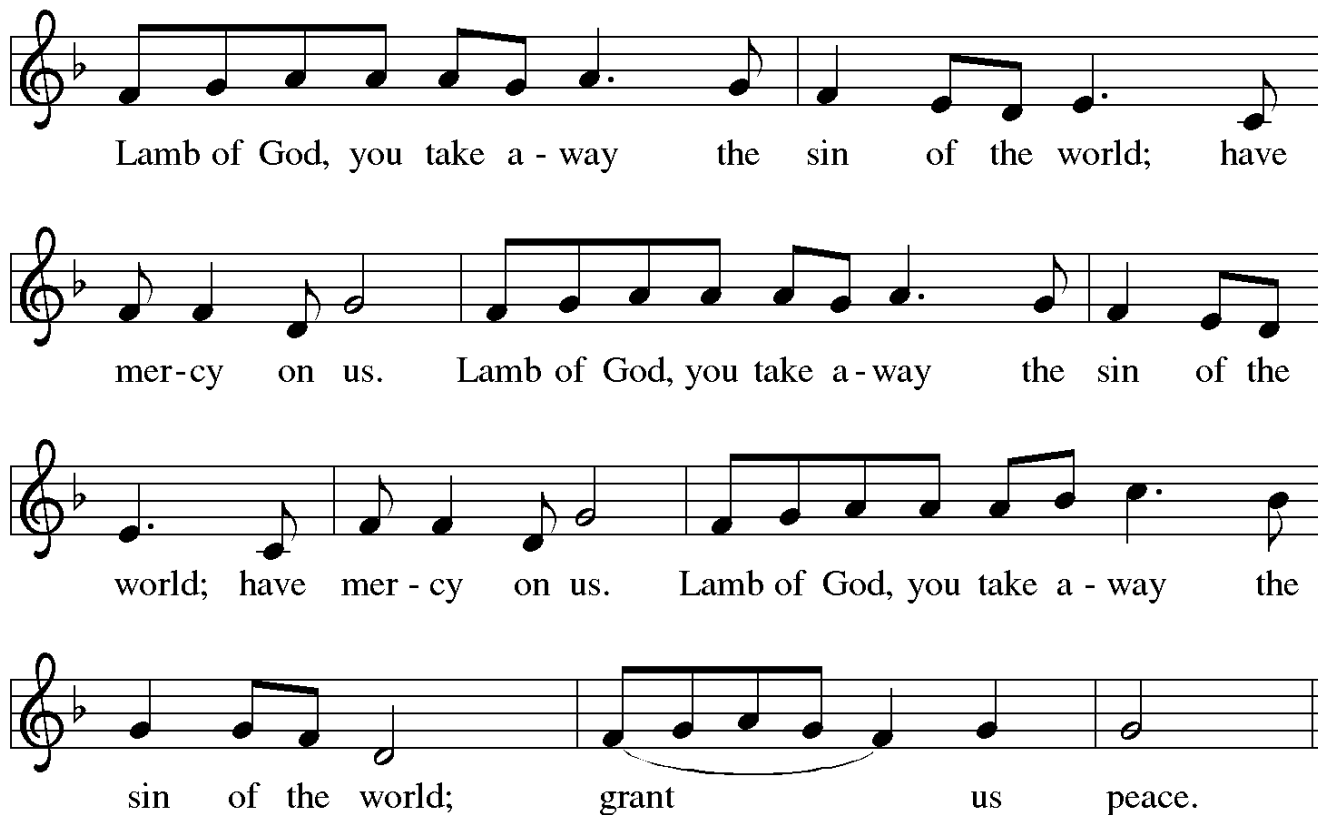
PR My friends, dust and ash we are, and also God's beloved people. Jesus, who knows both death and resurrection, invites us now to the table. Here, we see a glimpse of new life. At the table of God, there is hunger no more, and all of God's people feast together. There death is no more, and we see our beloved... and God's people of all the ages. Here tears are no more, and we rejoice in the presence of God's living grace.

In the name of Jesus our host, Jesus whom we follow into Lent, Jesus who gives us living bread, we are all invited to come and share in the feast.

Distribution

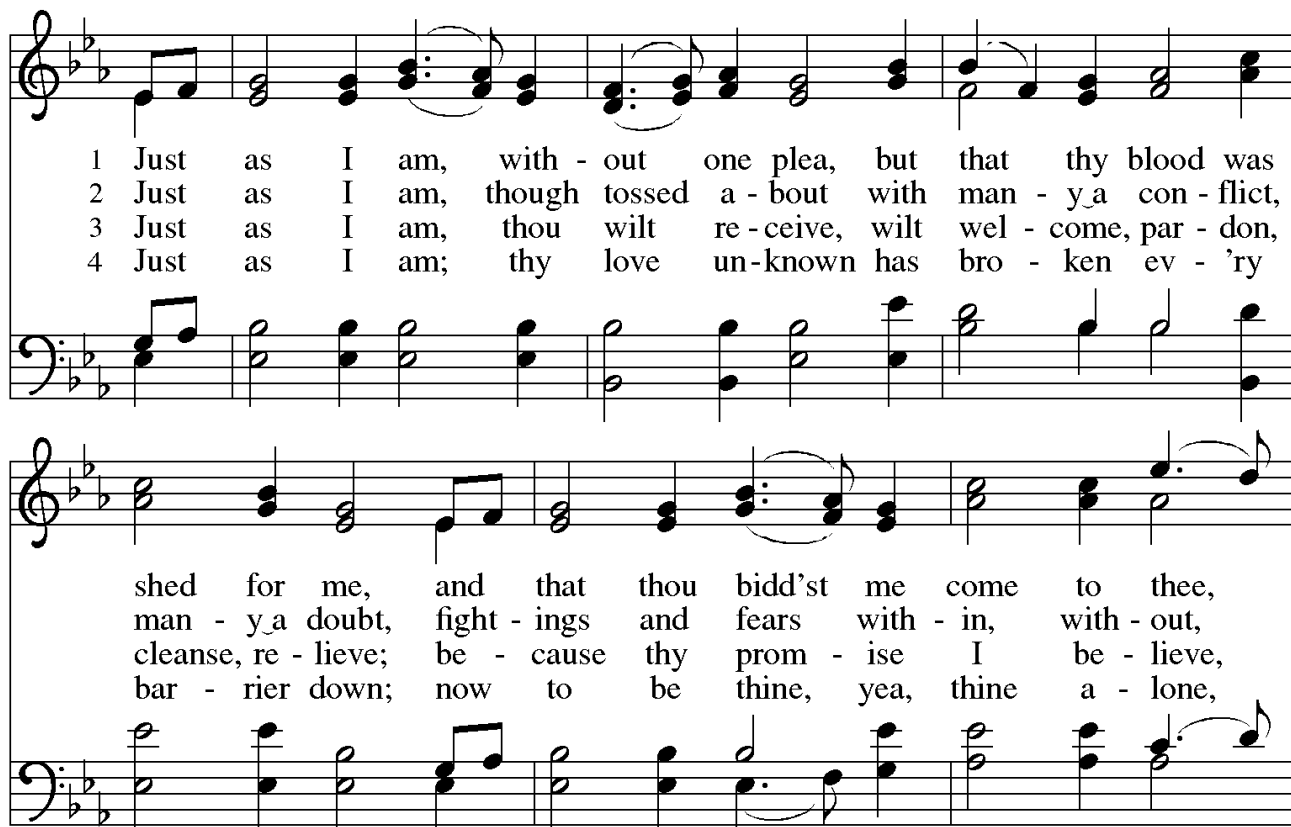
There are gluten-free wafers and grape juice. Please indicate your need to the server.

Lamb of God

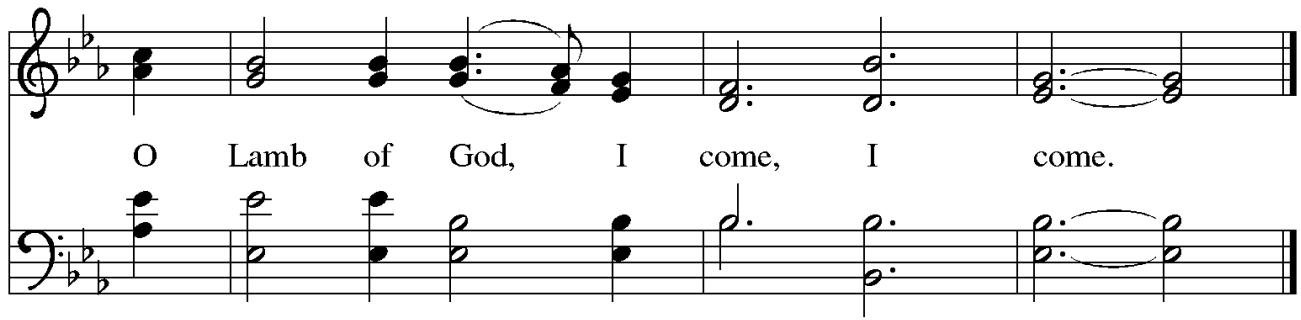


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 592: *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, 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,



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

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Stand

PR The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and for ever.

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.**

The Sending

Sending Hymn: ACS, Hymn 1020: *Let My Spirit Always Sing*

1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be
2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -
3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and
4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it

win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair
gaze my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern
chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,
an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain

give no sign that you are there, God to whom my
how much more there is to learn, see a world be -
to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be
know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er

days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.
com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.
full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.
on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

Blessing

PR 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.

Dismissal

A Practice joy.
As you leave this place,
go with the joy that sets the stage for life.

C Thanks be to God.

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Worship Assistants Today: Beth Dana (Musician), Scott Vana (Cantor), Dick Rahdert (Assisting Minister), Missy Schroeder (Lector), Vicki Mills (Usher), Mike Williams (A-V Specialist), (Assistant to Mr. Williams)

Pastor Randy is available for pastoral care. Please contact him at: 260-402-4476 or by email: randy@osluth.org

Pastor Kristin is available for campus ministry-related care and support. Please contact her at: 262-758-1235 or by email: pastor@plm.org

We collect toiletries (travel size) to donate to the homeless shelter. The basket for your donations is in the narthex. (Look beneath the buffet.)

Our sanctuary is served by a hearing loop. Wearers of hearing aids should turn their aids to the setting marked T, or T-coil, or Telephone.

Kid's Worship Bags and Family Room: The kids' worship bags have been updated with new items that help children follow along with the worship service, storybook Bibles and fun activities to do. For little ones there are quiet toys, books, and activities in the family in the back of the church for the children to play with during the service. Please feel free to let your children explore.

Dates OSLC is Closed in 2024:

April 1: The Monday after Easter

May 27: Memorial Day

July 4: Fourth of July

September 2: Labor Day

November 28 and 29: Thanksgiving

December 24 and 25: Christmas

December 31 and January 1 (2025): New Years

About Our Nave

Against the north wall is the Tree of Life, designed by the late liturgical designer Charles Pohlmann and constructed in 1996 by then-OSLC member Ted Marshall. The processional cross was given to OSLC in memory of Jennie Dana. Many of our paraments were designed and hand-woven by OSLC member Bea Stromberg. The west wall is lined with seven wood carvings depicting the life of Christ commissioned from the late Nigerian carver Lamidi Fakeye. At the center of the nave stands a marble baptismal font, a gift from members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The prints of paintings on the east wall are by nationally known liturgical artist He Qi. The center piece is given by the Church Council in honor of Sam Rasmy for his long-time service as Financial Secretary of OSLC. The Last Supper, by Guatemalan artist Angelina Quic Ixtamer, was purchased by the 2014 Guatemala Mission Team. The OSLC logo was redesigned in 2022 with elements reflecting the unique architecture of the sanctuary, the 2019 addition of the south stained-glass window, our affiliation with the ELCA, and the eternal presence of our Lord and Saviour.

References to the Tree of Life are found in both the Old and New Testaments. It has both literal and symbolic meaning for Christians: it is the literal tree of life in Genesis, and in Revelation it represents everlasting life granted to those who display fruits of the spirit and of righteousness aligned with God's principles.

Our Saviour's Vision, Mission, and Values (October 4, 2018)

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| Vision | <i>God calls us to be a community of discipleship for all, making Christ's love real in our daily lives.</i> |
| Mission | <i>Grow in faith and Christian calling Love and serve God and neighbor Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ</i> |
| Values | <i>Centered in liturgical worship Outreach to campus and partnership with Purdue Lutheran Ministry Education and mentoring for all ages Responsible stewardship of resources Care, compassion and service in the local and global community</i> |