

# Ash Wednesday

St. George's Church  
Glenn Dale Parish  
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

February 18, 2026  
A Service of Holy Eucharist

*Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this evening, whether in person or virtually. Zoom participants are welcome to leave your video camera on; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom*

*The Celebrant enters in silence.*

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People:** **God's mercy endures forever.**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray together:

**Table-setting God, we humbly bring our whole selves to you and ask for the transforming power of your grace. For this Lent we do not want to miss your invitation. We do not want to be so caught up in our own business that we miss the holiness right in front of us. We pray that you would settle our hearts and open our spirits to hear your word anew, that we may walk with you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The people may be seated*

## **Isaiah 58:3-11**

The people cry out to God and say,  
"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.

Look, 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.

Is 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?

Is 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?

Is 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?

Then 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.

Then 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,

if 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.

The 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.

Reader:      The Word of the Lord.      **People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 103:1, 8-14**

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless your holy Name.

**For you O LORD are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**  
You forgive us our wrongdoing and heal us of our selfishness and fear:

**You free us from the darkest pit and crown us with your compassion.**  
You make harmony among us and bring justice to all who are oppressed.

**You do not hold on to our wrongdoings; you will not remember our faults for all time.**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love toward those who hold you in awe;

**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you put away our sins from us.**  
As a mother has compassion for her children,  
so do you O Holy One have compassion for those who hold you in awe.

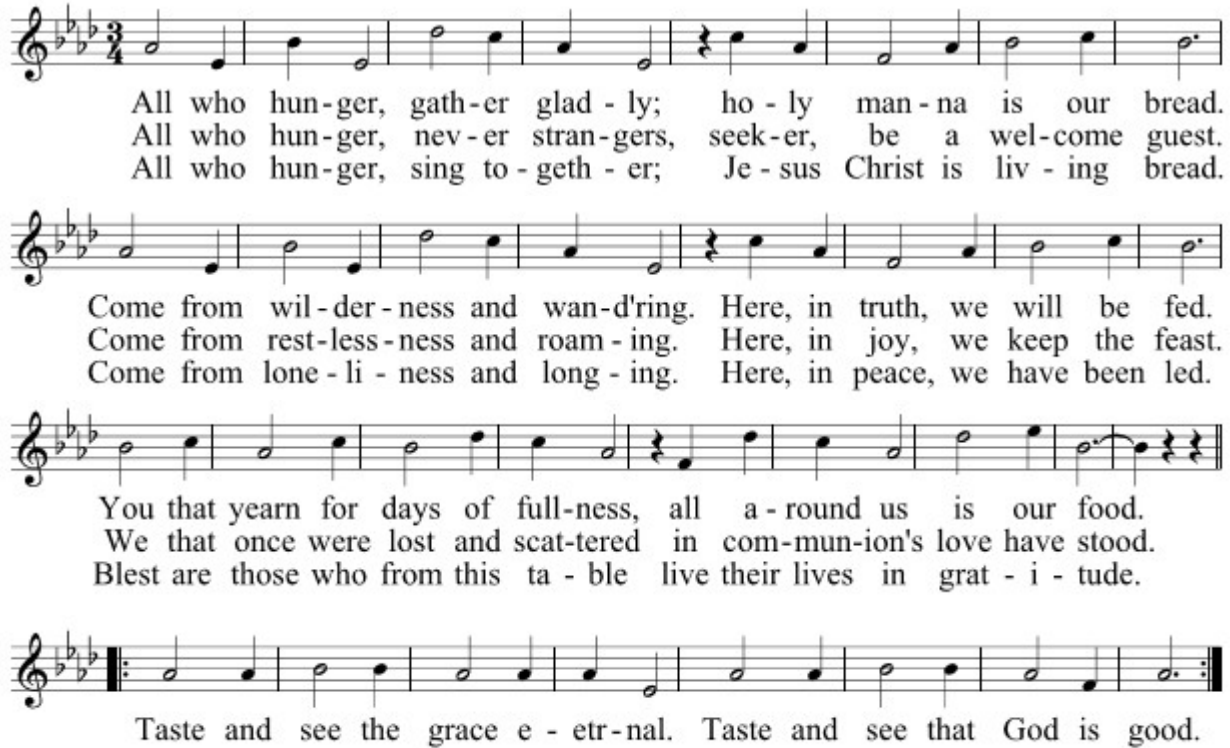
**For you know how we were made; you remember that we are but dust.**

*At the conclusion of the psalm, all say together*

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Gospel Hymn: Gather #589 *All Who Hunger*

Words: Sylvia G Dunstan (1955-1993) © 1991 GIA Publications. Music: Bob Moore, (b. 1962) © 1993 GIA Publications  
Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
All who hun-ger, nev - er stran-gers, seek - er, be a wel - come guest.  
All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their lives in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - et - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### Luke 14:12-24

Jesus said to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## Invitation to the Good News

We believe in a table-setting God

**who always has a seat saved for you.**

We believe in an inviting God

**who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.**

We believe in a radically welcoming God

**who eats with the overlooked and the outcast,  
the hungry and the downtrodden.**

We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us  
that all are welcomed, all are celebrated,

**all are loved, and all are claimed.**

Pull up a seat at God's table.

**There is good news to be shared here. Amen.**

## The Sermon: The Rev. Connie Reinhardt



## The Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the season of Lent when we remember Jesus' passion: his arrest, trial, crucifixion and death. During this time and in preparation for the resurrection, the community of Jesus' followers engaged in acts of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time for converts to the faith to prepare for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of their sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled and restored to the fellowship of the Church.

Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew our repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, we now kneel before the Lord our maker and redeemer.

*(Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling as you are able or in another posture of reflective prayer)*

## Imposition of Ashes

*The Celebrant prays:*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and our longing for you, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**



*All those desiring the imposition of ashes come forward to the altar at this time.*

*The Celebrant will mark a cross on your forehead with the ashes of palm branches burned from the previous season, using these or similar words: "Remember that you come from dust and to dust you shall return."*

*At the conclusion of the imposition of ashes, Psalm 51 is prayed responsively.*

### **Psalm 51:1-4, 6-17**

O God, give me mercy from your fountain of forgiveness.

**I know your abundant love is enough to wash away my transgressions.**

Because your compassion is so great, take away the guilt of my wrongdoings.

**Forgive the full extent of my rebellious ways, and erase this deep stain on my conscience.**

I feel such pain and anguish within me;

**I cannot get away from the sting of my sin against you, Lord.**

Everything I did, I did right in front of you, for you saw it all.

**Against you, and you above all, have I sinned.**

Everything you say to me is infallibly true, and your judgment conquers me.

**I know that you delight to set your truth deep in my spirit,**

So come into the hidden places of my heart and teach me wisdom.

**Purify my conscience O God; make me clean again.**

Wash me in your love until I am pure in heart.

**Satisfy me in your sweetness, and my song of joy will return.**

The places within me you have crushed will rejoice in your healing touch.

**Hide my sins from your face; erase all my guilt by your saving grace.**

Create a new, clean heart within me; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me.

**May you never reject me, O God; may you never take from me your presence.**

Return me to joy at your salvation; let your generous Spirit sustain my life.

**Hold me close to you with a willing spirit that obeys your word.**

Then I can show to other guilty ones how loving and merciful you are.

**They will find their way back home to you, knowing that you will forgive them.**

Spare my life, O God, and save me, and my heart will gladly sing of your deliverance.

**Lord God, unlock my heart, unlock my lips, and I will joyously praise you.**

For the source of your pleasure is not in my performance or the sacrifices I might offer to you.

**The fountain of your pleasure is found in the sacrifice of a repentant spirit, O God;**

**You will not refuse a broken and sorrowful heart.**

## The Litany of Penitence

*The Celebrant and People together, saying:*

**Most holy and compassionate God: 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.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven;  
**Have compassion on us, Lord.**

We have been heedless of your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit; **Have compassion on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives; **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people;  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves;  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work;  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to live the faith that is in us;  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

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; **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us; **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord and accomplish in us the work of your compassion and love;

**That, having taken this Lenten journey of exile and return, we may be your beloved presence in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

Almighty God, the giver of our Lord Jesus Christ, you grieve the distance between us and desire that we turn back to you so that we might enjoy fullness of life. You have given responsibility to your ministers to declare and pronounce to your people, expressing sorrow for our shortcomings, a return from the exile and bondage of our sins. You assure us that all those who are truly ready to turn back to you and strive to amend our lives are forgiven.

Therefore we ask you, O God, to grant us true repentance. We ask that those things which we do on this day may please you, and that the rest of our life we may seek your light, so that at the last we may come to a holy joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## Announcements

## The Offertory

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering holy and acceptable to God.

### Offertory Hymn: Gather #643 Ashes

Words and Music: Tim Conry (b. 1951) © New Dawn Music. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the good we've failed to do. We  
We of - fer you our fail - ures, we of - fer you at - tempts, The  
Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let heal - ing come to pain, Though  
Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who made us like him - self.



rise a - gain from ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If  
gifts not ful - ly giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our  
spring has turned to win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. The  
Thanks be to the Son who saved us by his death



all our world is ash - es, then must our lives be true, An  
stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our vi - sions wid - er view, An  
rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre - ate the world a - new From an  
Thanks be to the Spir - it, who cre - ates the world a - new From an



of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.  
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.  
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.  
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

Although St. George's no longer physically "passes the basket" everyone is invited and encouraged to make a financial offering to express your gratitude to God for the gifts we are given and in support of our mission and ministries. Baskets for donations by check or cash are located at the corner entrances to the Sanctuary. We encourage you to give electronically: you can text\* stgeodragon to 73256, use a web browser to go to [onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/give](http://onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/give), or donate via Zelle to [donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org](mailto:donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org). (\*For texts, message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.)

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

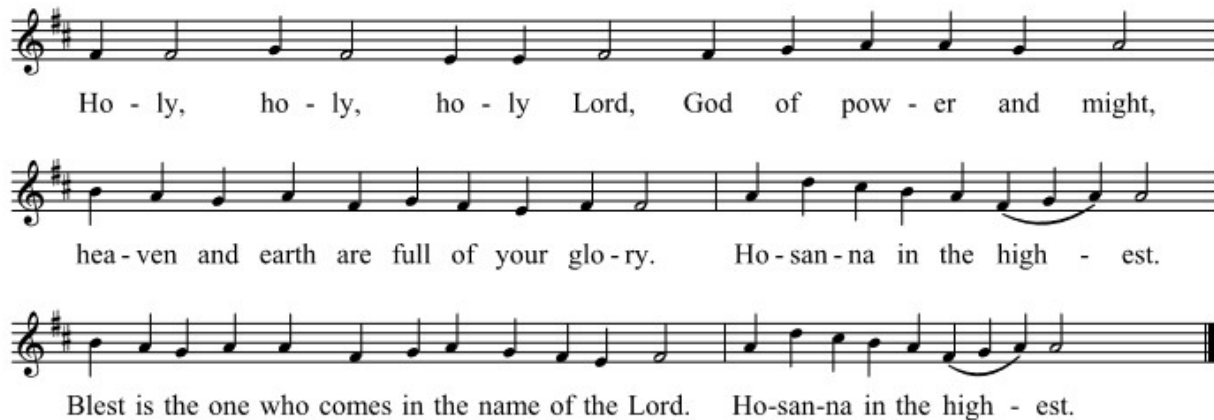
*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance, that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline, we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer, and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy, and join with saints and angels, evermore praising you and singing:

## Holy, holy, holy Lord Sanctus

Setting: David Hurd (b. 1950) Hymnal 1982 #S 124. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues:*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

**But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.**

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

**Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.**

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

**Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons and all your children, that with your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant:* And now as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

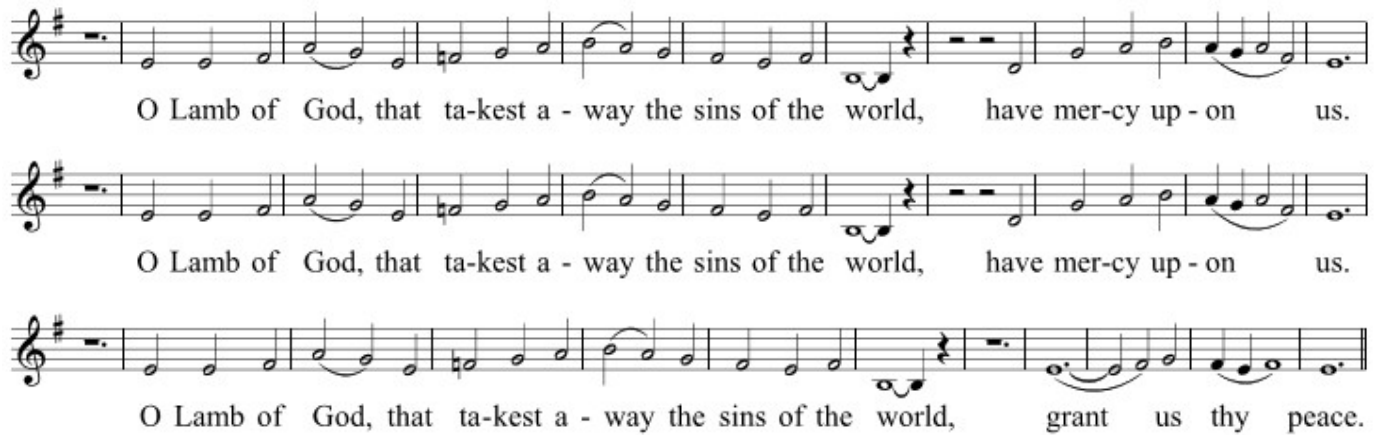
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The bread is broken. After a period of silence, all sing together*

### Fraction Anthem: *O Lamb of God S #158*

Setting: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healy Willan (1880-1968). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*Celebrant:* Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

**Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Communion

*Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.*

*If you would prefer not to receive the Eucharist, you are welcome to come up for a blessing - cross your hands to your shoulders to indicate this to the priest.*



## Communion Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #313 *Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured*

Words: John Brownlie (1859-1925). Music: *Jesu, meine Zuversicht*, Johann Couger (1598-1662) after *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863  
Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Let thy Blood in mer - cy poured, let thy gra - cious Bo - dy bro - ken,  
Thou did'st die that I might live; bless-ed Lord. thou cam'st to save me;  
By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear-wound and the nail - ing,  
Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my pen - i - tence I give thee;



be to me, O gra - cious Lord, of thy bound - less love the to - ken.  
all that love of God could give Je - sus by his sor - rows gave me.  
by the pain and death, I now claim, O Christ, thy love un - fail - ing.  
thou art my ex - alt - ed King, of thy match - less love for - give me.

### *Refrain*



Thou didst give thy self for me, now I give my - self to thee.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* Let us pray: **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now O God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.  
May you go forth knowing that the good news of the gospel is alive in the world, and may the blessing of God who creates, redeems and sustains you be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #142 *Lord, who throughout these forty days*

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Music: *St. Flavian* from *Day's Psalter*, 1562. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend and didst the vict - ory win,  
As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, grac - ious Lord,  
And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,  
A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
yea, ev - er more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

### The Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### Postlude: *Moonlight Sonata*

Music: L. van Beethoven