

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**Ash Wednesday, Year A**  
**February 18, 2026**



Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde  
Music & Choir Director: Rowen Erickson

**Worship Volunteers**

**Assisting Minister:** Charlie Hilla

**Reader:** Doris Brack

**Alter Guild:** Linda Wery

**Communion Assistant:** Dar Schuurmans

**Ushers:** Carol Wehunt & Dawn Schroeder

**Video Tech:** Rick Johnson

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**GATHERING**

*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.*

**GATHERING HYMN** *Savior, When in Dust to You* **Cranberry 601**



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 - turing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf - fer'd once for us be - low,  
by the dread, mys - te - rious 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 - fice,  
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!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

**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.**

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 mercy on us, O God.**

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **GREETING**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray, **Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**WORD**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12**

1 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. 2 Yet 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 want God on their side. 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. 4 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. 5 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?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 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? 8 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. 9 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, 10 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. 11 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. 12 Your 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17** (read responsively by verse)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

**2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**6 You desire truth in the inward being;**

**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and gladness;**

**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

**and put a new and right spirit within me.**

11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

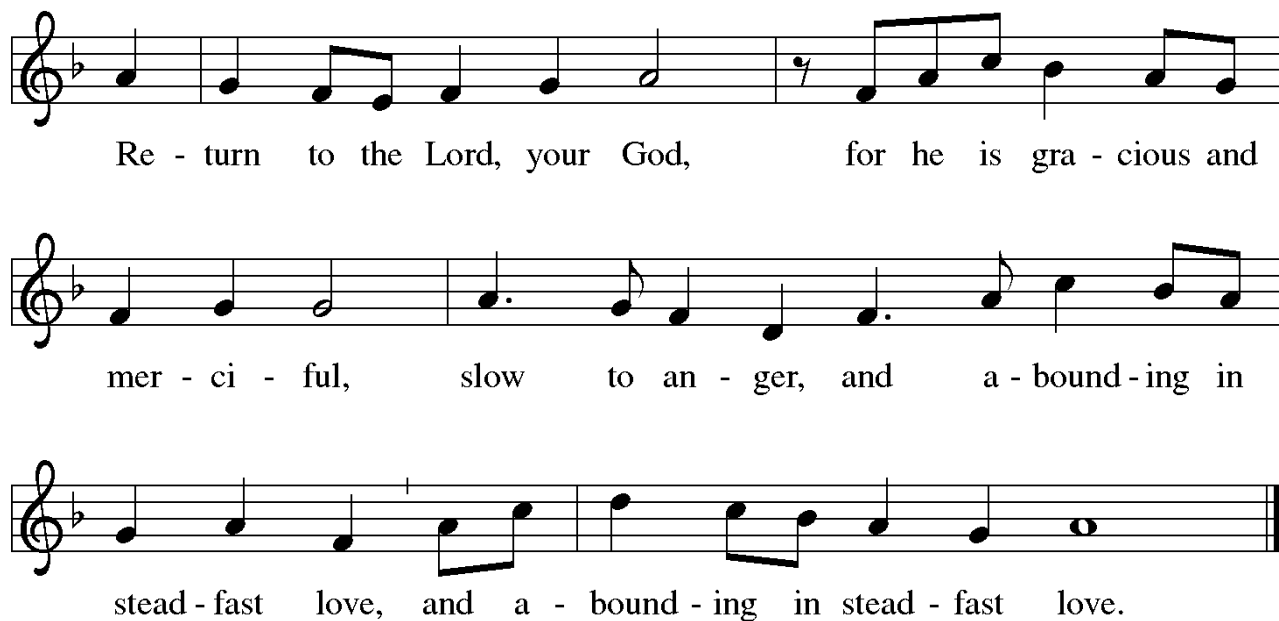
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, 9 as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision*

Cranberry 793

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional



## INVITATION TO LENT

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.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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.

**Amen.**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand 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.

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

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

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

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

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

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.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

*Silent and spoken prayers are invited*

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of the Lord's peace with those around you.*

*Please be seated.*

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**MEAL**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

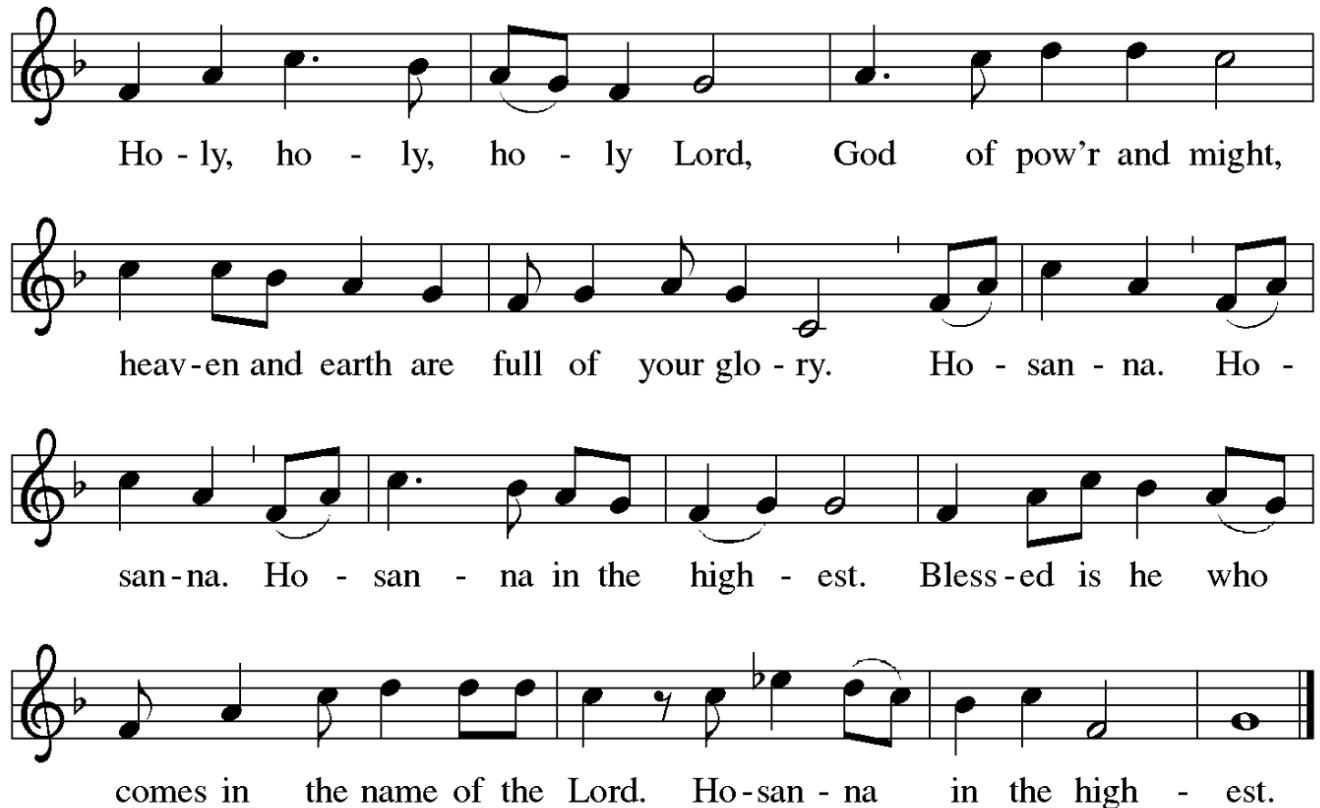
O God, **maker of heaven and earth,**  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation.**  
**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth**  
**and bring forth its bounty.**  
**Through these gifts of bread and wine,**  
**draw us into the death and life of your Son,**  
**who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.  
We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.  
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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,

we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,

so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,

may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

# LAMB OF GOD

Cranberry pg 146

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

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

**Cranberry 332**



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889

Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, **God of our salvation,**  
**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,**  
**reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.**  
**Through the body and blood of your Son,**  
**may we become Christ's body in the world,**  
**bearing witness to your love for all creation,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**SENDING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde for leading worship today!

## **BLESSING**

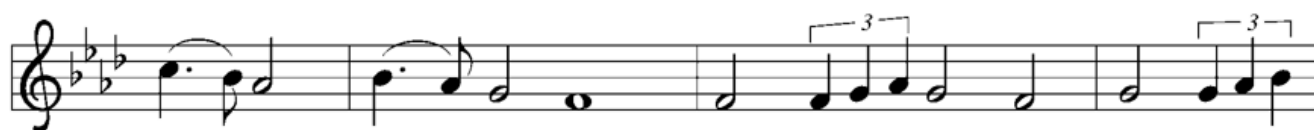
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN** *Through The Night of Doubt and Sorrow* **Cranberry 327**



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward  
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the  
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as  
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -  
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and  
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the  
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -  
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the  
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the  
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the  
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which  
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -  
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing

guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of  
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing  
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y  
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all

pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.  
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.  
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.  
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

## DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

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