St. PAUL'S Episcopal Church

THE HOLY EUCHARIST & THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 • 12:15pm & 7pm

Welcome to St. Paul's! We are grateful for your presence and look forward to welcoming you into this life we share through the love of Jesus Christ! Please do remember to silence your devices out of respect for all who join us in worship and in reverence for this solemn day of communal prayer and reflection!

Families are welcome to sit anywhere they would like, including our dedicated children's area in the Chapel, which features self-directed activities and books. Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall on the Occidental Avenue side of the church campus. Our worship service is live-streamed on St. Paul's YouTube Channel, where we welcome online friends to pray with us.

All are warmly invited to participate in Holy Communion at St. Paul's. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest as the Eucharistic Minister greets you saying, "the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation." Thank you for sharing the light of your presence with our community! May God's presence be very near to you in this sacred season.

Prelude *O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde Gross,* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

All stand.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People God's mercy endures forever.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson Isaiah 58:1-12

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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.
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 delight to draw near to God.
"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.

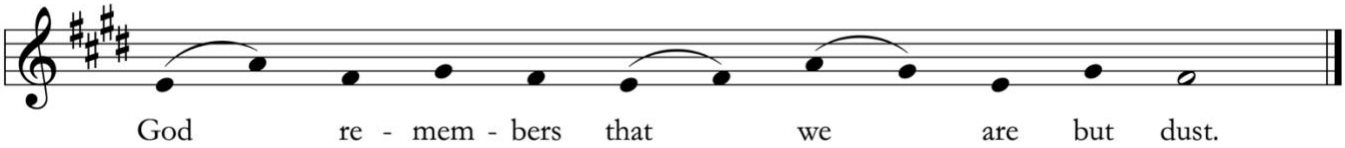
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs 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.
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.

After the reading, the reader says

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: 8-14 *The Saint Helena Psalter*

Cantor sings **REFRAIN**. *All sing* **REFRAIN.** *Cantor sings verses.*



8 O God, you are full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 You will not always accuse us, *
nor will you keep your anger for ever.
10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
All sing **REFRAIN.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.
12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far have you removed our sins from us.
All sing **REFRAIN.**

13 As a parent cares for a child, *
so do you care for those who fear you.
14 For you yourself know whereof we are made; *
you remember that we are but dust.
All sing **REFRAIN.**

Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

After the reading, the reader says
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing stanzas 1, 2 & 4

Sequence Hymn 145 "Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry," *Quittez, Pasteurs*

The Holy Gospel Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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. 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. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

After the Gospel, the reader says

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated.

Sermon The Rev. Nick W. Roosevelt

During the season of Lent, a moment of prayerful reflection is observed following the sermon.

All stand.

The Call to a Faithful Observance of a Holy Lent *The Book of Common Prayer,* p. 264

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, 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 their 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, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

The Imposition of Ashes

The Celebrant says the following prayer

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 penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**.

The ashes are imposed with the following words
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

At the 12:15pm service, following the imposition of ashes, all say

Psalm 51: 1-18

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 266

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, * a sinner from my mother's womb.
7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; * wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
13 Give me the joy of your saving help again * and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

At the 7pm service, the following verse of Psalm 51 is sung by the choir during the imposition of ashes.

Anthem *sung in Latin* *Miserere mei, Deus,* William Byrd (1545-1623)

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.
Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam.
Have mercy on me, God, according to your great loving kindness.
And according to the multitude of your mercies, blot out my iniquity. ~ Psalm 51:1

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father: 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 Intercessors continue

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, Lord.

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.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, & 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 commend 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 let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant, stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech God to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please God which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

Announcements

Sung by cantor at 12:15pm

Offertory Solo

Aria from *St. Paul Oratorio,* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Gott, sei mir gnädig nach deiner Güte,
und tilge meine Sünden nach deiner großen Barmherzigkeit.
Verwirf mich nicht von deinem Angesicht, und nimm deinen Heiligen Geist nicht von mir.
Ein geängstetes und zerschlagenes Herz wirst du, Gott, nicht verachten.

God, be merciful to me according to your goodness,
and blot away my sins in your great compassion.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

~ Psalm 51: 1,12, 18b

Sung by choir at 7pm

Offertory Anthem

Upon your heart, Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

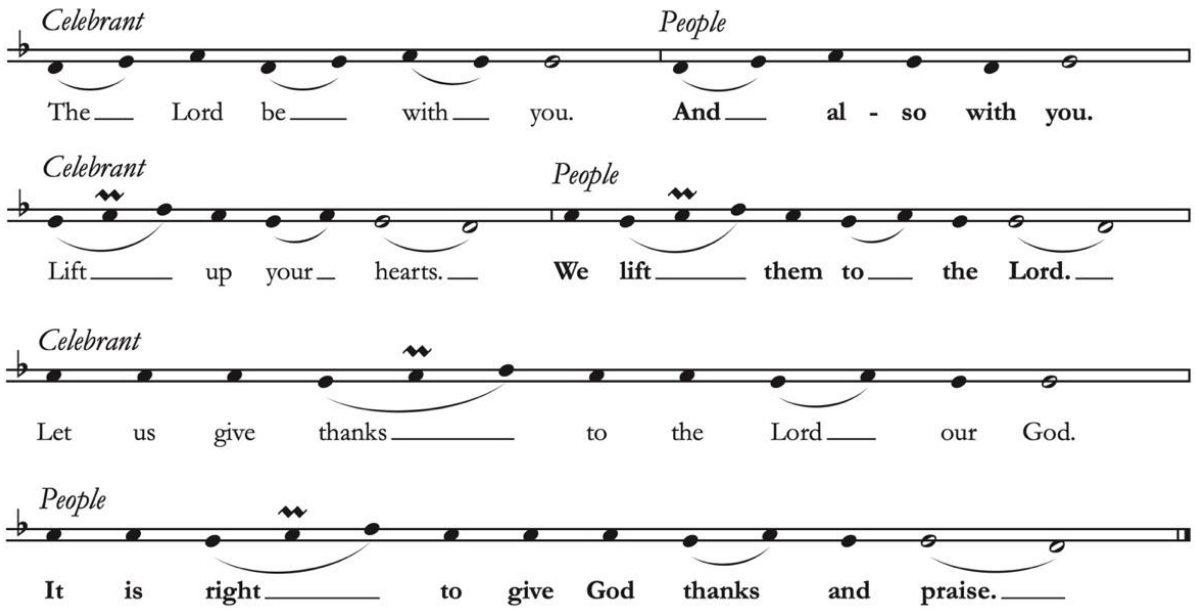
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.
If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love,
Love one another as I have loved you, Then shall your joy be complete.

~ Song of Solomon 8: 6, 7; John 15: 9-12

All stand to sing stanzas 1, 2, & 4

Presentation Hymn 143 "The glory of these forty days," *Erhalt uns, Herr*

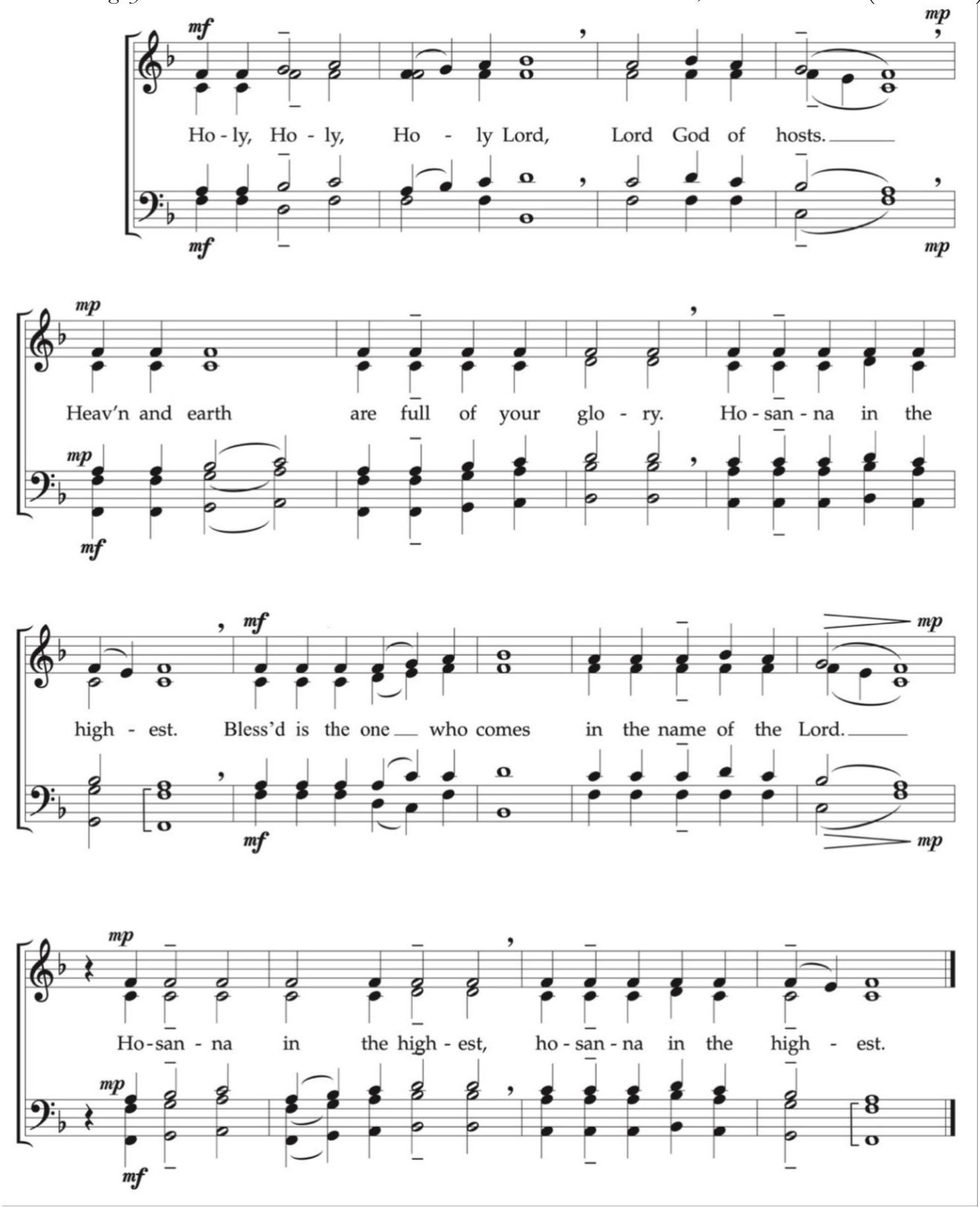
The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer II, adapted from The Book of Common Prayer,* p. 340



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

Sanctus *sung by all* *Missa Oecumenica,* Richard Proulx (1937-2010)



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues until concluding the prayer

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto you, Almighty God, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

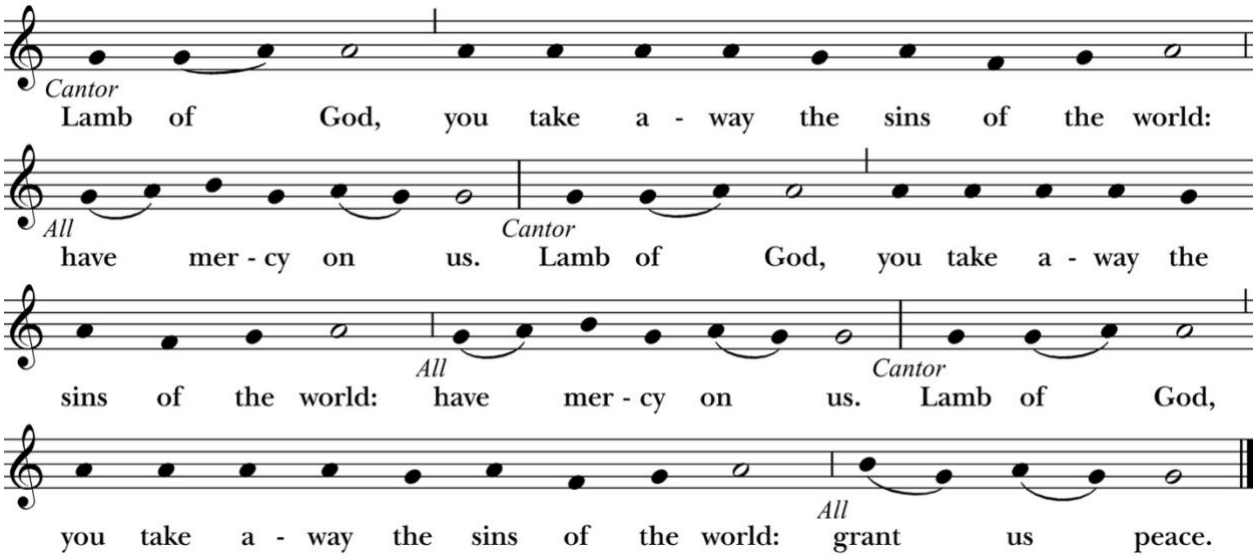
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

Chant



Invitation to Communion

The Celebrant lifts the bread and wine saying,

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome to receive the bread and the wine, if desired. Ushers will invite you forward by rows to approach the rail, where you may kneel or stand to receive Communion. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. In addition to the consecrated bread, wine in the chalice is available to those who wish to receive it. Please drink directly from the cup, guiding it to your mouth, and do not intinct (dip) the bread. Feel free to return to your seat if you do not wish to sip from the cup.

To indicate a prayer of blessing is preferred, please cross your arms over your chest as the communion minister comes to you. However you choose to share in this sacred meal, we pray God's love strengthens you in your Lenten journey.

Sung by choir at 7pm

Communion Anthem *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*, Richard Farrant (c. 1525-1580)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen.

~Anonymous prayer in *Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations*, 1566

All stand to say

Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of the Merciful Creator, Loving Savior, and Transforming Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

All stand to sing

Hymn 149 "Eternal Lord of love," *Old 124th*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Largo (Trio Sonata 2),* Johann Sebastian Bach

The retiring procession, including the choir and altar party, joins the congregation for a time of contemplation and prayer in the pews during the postlude. Throughout the season of Lent, the worshiping community is invited to quietly linger in the church following the postlude, as desired, creating a sacred space for reflection and renewal before going back into the world.

SERVING AT THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Thank you to all those whose ministry enlivened our worship today.

Celebrant: The Rev. Sarah C. Stewart
Preacher: The Rev. Nick W. Roosevelt
Assisting: Jocelyn A. Sideco, MTS
Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Susan Jane Matthews

12:15pm service
Altar Guild: Edith Foothorap, Lynn Bruce
Lectors: Beth Beisecker, Joan Cleary
Litany of Penitence: Russell Miller, Jocelyn A. Sideco
Cup Bearer: Jocelyn A. Sideco
Cantor: Josh Black

7pm service
Altar Guild: Michèle Bosschart, Tish Busselle, Cisca Hansen
Lectors: Jim Drummey, Denora Smith
Litany of Penitence: Melissa Koomey, Jocelyn A. Sideco
Cup Bearers: Denora Smith, Jocelyn A. Sideco
Musicians: Choir of St. Paul's

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