



*Redeemer*  
Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA

We are a *Reconciling in Christ*  
congregation, affirming the  
diversity of God's children



1555 South James Road, Columbus, OH 43227  
614.237.1263 + info@redeemerluth.com + www.redeemerluth.com

## ASH WEDNESDAY



**February 17, 2021**

**Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...**

*an adventure for life!*

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Prelude

*What Wondrous Love*, arr. John Carter

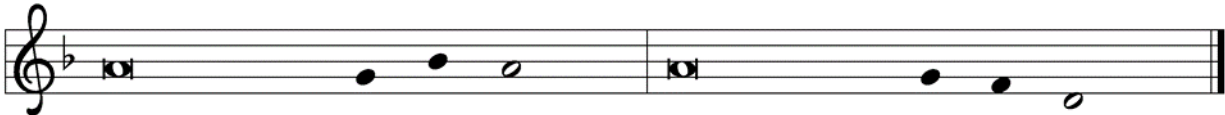
As you begin the service, take a few moments to bring yourself before God, be aware of your present state of mind, your preoccupations, and your desire to meet God during this time.

All the songs are chants, which are designed to find a home in you so you can sing them without looking at the words. So they will be repeated numerous times.

### Welcome

### Choral Call to Worship

Psalm 51



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

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

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

For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**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.**

Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

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

Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

## **Call to Worship**

God's people have been called to gather.

**From great-grandparents to breast-feeding infants,  
all are welcome.**

God's people have been called to turn from all that causes harm.

**From those who wear their faults on their sleeves,  
to those whose secret hearts are burdened with shame,  
all are welcome.**

God's people have been called to trust God's unyielding love.

**From those who have turned away,  
to those whose pain whispers in the night,  
All are welcome.**



## Song

## Wait for the Lord

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Wait for the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system of music has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with block chords and single notes.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Prayer of the Day

God of holiness:

**Your day comes near, and we tremble, not out of fear, but from awe and gratitude. For on your day, we are fully known, completely restored, and at home in your loving arms forever.**

Jesus Christ, Grace-bearer:

**As we come to your fast, may we be filled with your hope; as we receive your gifts, may our hearts be opened to others; as we begin our journey with you, may we put no roadblocks on our walk with you to Jerusalem.**

Holy Spirit, Creator of clean hearts:

**As water rushes into an empty hole, may your healing silence fill the emptiness of our souls. Amen.**

Song

In the Lord, I'll Be Ever thankful

English: In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -

Chords: Dm C F Bb C Dm C F

joyce! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the

Chords: C Bb A 3 Dm C F

Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

Chords: Gm C Am Dm Bb C F

Words: Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Words and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

France  
9.7.8.9.9.

## Invitation to Lenten Disciplines

Beloved in Christ, at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our deliverance to new life through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is the season of preparation for this great celebration, when Holy Spirit renews our lives through the Easter mystery.

We begin our Lenten journey by admitting we need to turn around. By going beyond the minds that we have, we find the courage to see how we choose to damage ourselves and others, and we open ourselves to the One whose love knows no boundaries and whose mercy is shown to us in the life of Jesus Christ.

By taking an honest look at our lives and turning away from our foolishness; by praying quietly but with full hearts; by letting go of those things that harm us and by taking on works of love for others; by reading and feasting on God's Word, we observe a holy Lent, and prepare ourselves for the passion of Holy Week and the joy of Easter.

Let us prepare ourselves to come to our God.

### Song

### Come and Pray in Us

Canon—4 voices

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two lines of music. The first line contains measures 1 through 4, with a circled 'A' above the first measure and a circled 'B' above the second measure. The second line contains measures 5 through 8, with a circled 'C' above the first measure and a circled 'D' above the second measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Come and pray in us, Ho - ly Spir-it, come and pray in us,  
*Vie - ni, Spi-ri-to cre - a - to - re, vie - ni, vie - ni,*

come and vis-it us, Ho - ly Spir-it, Spir-it come, Spir-it come.  
*vie - ni, Spi-ri-to cre - a - to - re, vie - ni, vie - ni!*

Text: Taizé Community, 1991  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
© 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## Call to Reconciliation / Prayer of Confession

God begs us to turn from all we do, say, and think that keeps us from being God's people. As we begin our Lenten journey, I invite you to join me, with words and in silence, as we bring our brokenness to God, who desires to make us whole:

**You who draw near to us, for too long we traveled our own ways; for too long we have sought to fill our empty places with what can never bring us what we seek. We have trusted the falsehoods of the world, and relied on that power which would consume our souls. We have sought healing from imposters, and rejected the one who was broken for our wholeness.**

**Have mercy on us, you whose love overflows our deepest hopes. Let our hearts be a sanctuary for your spirit; let our lives become a story that tells how we walk with those others ignore or reject; let our spirits celebrate the freedom and joy of the one we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God's mercy falls on us like rain, and puts a new spirit into us: the spirit of hope and joy.

**We will sing to the one who has delivered us from our sins. We will praise God with cleansed hearts. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Song

## My Soul is at Rest

Ostinato Refrain

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is an ostinato refrain. The lyrics are: "My soul is at rest in God a-lone, my sal-va-tion comes from God." The score includes a treble clef for the voice line and a bass clef for the piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady, rhythmic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

Text: Psalm 62: Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
© 1982, 1983, 1984, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent



**Gospel****Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21** (New Living Translation, alt.)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to his followers], “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Abba in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Abba, who sees everything, will reward you.

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray in private. Then your Abba, who sees everything, will reward you....

“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Abba, who knows what you do in private, and will reward you.

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## Reflection

### Musical Reflection

### *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Mark Hayes

### The Imposition of Ashes

*Note: Because Ash Wednesday reminds us that we come from the earth and return to the earth, you can use dirt or sand in this ritual. You can also simply trace a cross on your forehead with your finger, to remember you belong to God, and nothing can separate you from God's love.*

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life. Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness; we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain; we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness.

God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life.

May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but be a reminder that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, We are granted life forever with you. Amen.

*From dust were you made; to dust you shall return.*



## Song

## Bless the Lord, My Soul

The image shows a musical score for the song "Bless the Lord, My Soul" in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, A for the first system, and Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm for the second system.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

*Words:* Taizé Community

*Music:* Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Words and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

France

## Responsive Invitation to the Table (from Isaiah 58)

We try. God knows, we try.

We show up at church, hoping God will notice.

We study scripture, pretending God is reading aloud to us;  
we put on a false face to show everyone how proper we are:

how fine,

how together,

how religious;

and we wonder – does God even care?

**Not when we clench our fists in anger,  
rather than opening them in love;  
not when we work people too hard  
and pay them too little;  
not when we speak bitter and harmful words  
to those we are given to love.**

So tonight, as we begin our Lenten fast, God offers us a feast. Why?  
So that the broken bread will strengthen us:  
to break the chains of injustice,  
to take the burden of poverty off our neighbors,  
to challenge an economy that doesn't ask why there are still hungry people.

**God offers us a feast so that the cup of grace will free us to take coats out of our closets and wrap them around shivering shoulders; to offer shelter to the homeless without judging them; to spend more time with our families and less on the internet.**

So, come to this table and eat.  
Then, you will see the light God offers to your darkness;  
then, you will find the path God calls you to walk;  
then, you will discover God waiting to embrace you,  
even before you say a word.

**We will come to this table and feast.**

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

People of God, the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of dust, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

People of ashes, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



Holy God of Creation, now is the moment to sing your praises. You formed us to live in joy and peace with you, but we tore your heart when we chose our desires over your dreams for us.

We prefer to splash in sin's waters than to be cleansed in your living streams.

We hunger more for the praise of others than for the quiet intimacy of your grace.

Yet you did not turn away from us but remained true to your covenant, calling us to return in the words trumpeted by the prophets; inviting us to gather in your beloved community, asking us to open our hearts and accept your overflowing love.

Therefore, we glorify you, joining our voices with those who had wandered far from you, but who were brought home; and with those who seek you now in this time and place:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy are you, Steadfast Love,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, Bread of Life.

Considered a pretender to David's throne, he is your heart's true Son. Taking on the poverty of the human spirit, he shared the abundance of your heart; weeping over our broken relationships, he reconciles us with your saving joy; having nothing he could call his own, he gives us more than we ever need; dying like a common criminal, he gives us life, releasing us from the grip of sin and death.

Preparing to journey with him once again, we remember the mystery of his faithful obedience to your heart: how on the night he was betrayed, he gathered with his friends, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

"This is my body, broken for you: do this to remember me."

And after supper, he took the cup, and gave it to them, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy Spirit, Heart of Compassion:

as the ashes of our humanity are placed upon your baptismal seal, so the brokenness of our lives is placed on the Table of grace, so the bread might make us whole, and the cup might fill us with hope. Then, in your wisdom, may we turn to serve others;

in your joy, may we bear the burdens of others;

in your grace, may our love overflow to others

as we make real the prayer Jesus teaches us:

## The Lord's Prayer

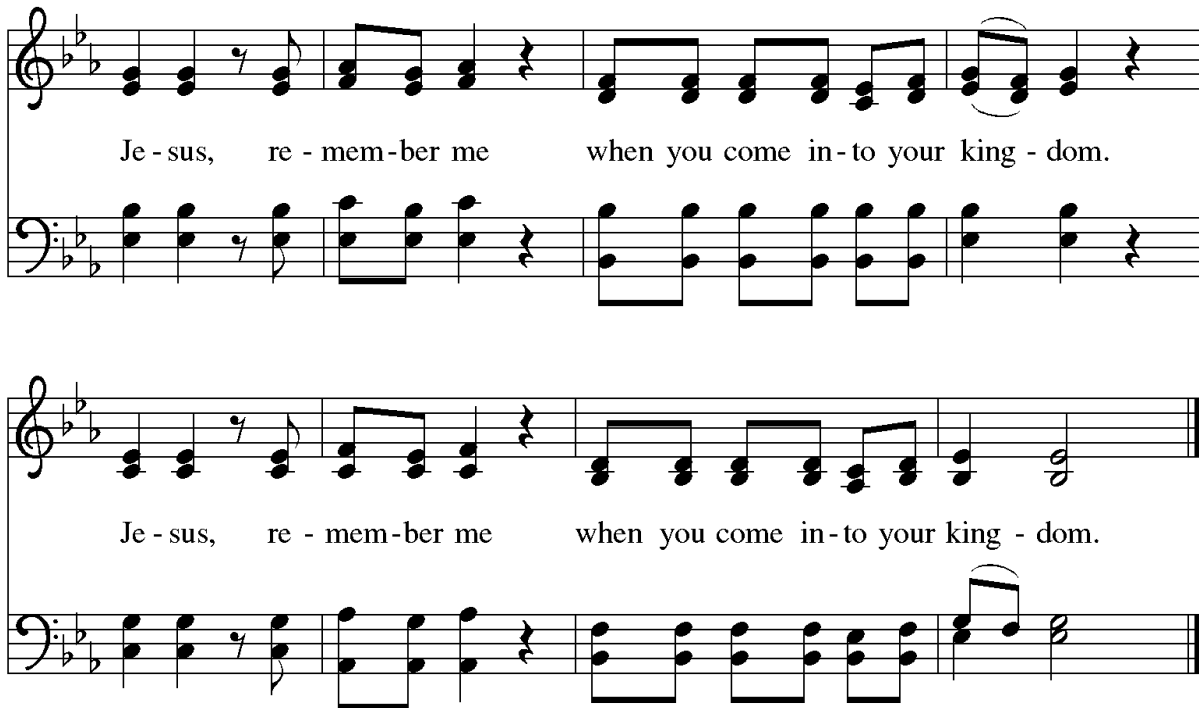
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread and the Sharing of the Cup

The body of Christ, broken for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
This is Jesus' table.  
He made no restrictions,  
and neither do we.

## Song

## Jesus, remember me



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community  
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Silence

CCLI License # 11287796; One License A-728105  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The service is adapted from "Ash Wednesday" by Thom M. Shuman, © 2014, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, Scotland  
New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation