

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026, 7:00 PM



from Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)

Evening Prayer Vespers (p. 142 ff)

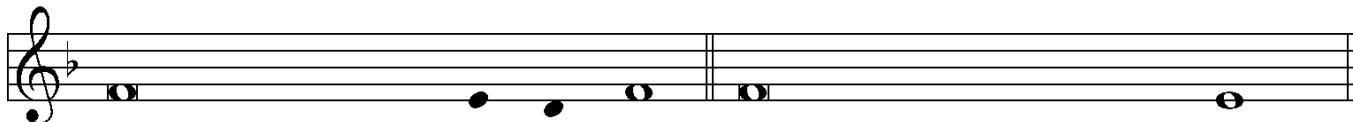
WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

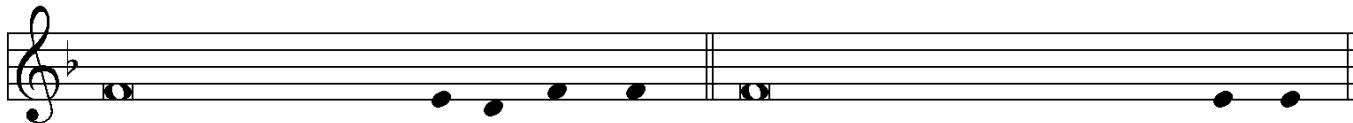
Remember you are dust...

Silence to prepare our hearts for worship

SERVICE OF LIGHT



L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, **C** the light no darkness can over- come.

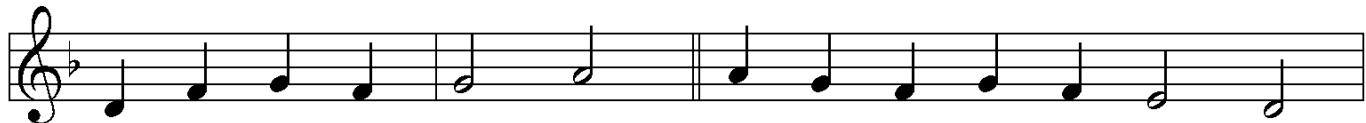


L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning, **C** and the day is almost o- ver.

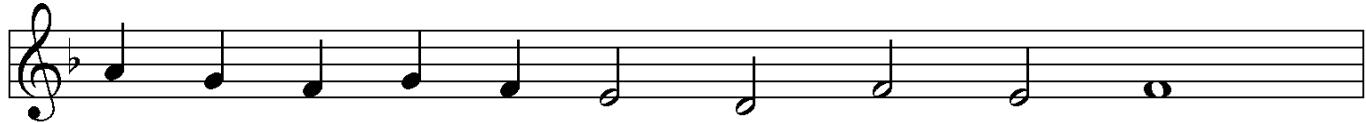


L Let your light scat- ter the dark-ness, **C** and illumine your Church.

As the hymn is sung, the candles on and near the altar are lighted.



L Joy- ous light of glo - ry: **C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther;



heav- en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ.



We have come to the set- ting of the sun, and we look to the eve- ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa- ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: You are wor- thy of



be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God,



O Giv- er of life: The u - ni- verse pro- claims your glo - ry.



L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people

Israel by a pil - lar of cloud by day and a pil - lar of fire by night:

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his Word be a lamp

to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer - ci - ful,

and you love your whole cre - a - tion, and we, your crea - tures, glo - ri - fy you,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. C **A - men**

PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

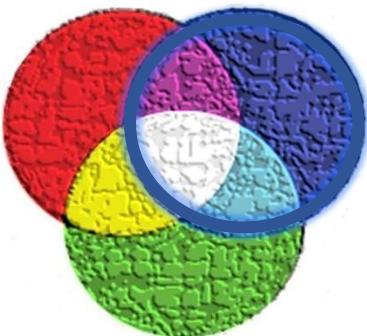
Amen.

A reading from **2nd Samuel 12:1-15** which tells of Nathan confronting King David after David has had Uriah killed so that he could possess Uriah's wife Bathsheba:

12¹ and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. **2** The rich man had very many flocks and herds; **3** but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. **4** Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." **5** Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; **6** he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; **8** I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. **9** Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. **10** Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. **11** Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. **12** For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." **13** David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die. **14** Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die." **15** Then Nathan went to his house.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Homily

Knowing Ourselves

Beautiful Things ACS 925

1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll
2 All this earth; . . . could all that is
3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing

ev - er find my way. I won - der if my
lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den
up from this old ground. . . Out of cha - os,

life could real - ly change at all.
come up from this ground at all?
life is be - ing found in you.

Refrain

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau - ti - ful things out of the dust.

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau - ti -

ful things out of us.

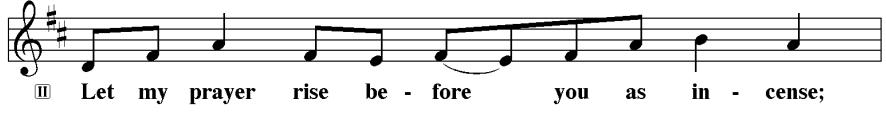
PSALMODY



 G Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
 the lift- ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



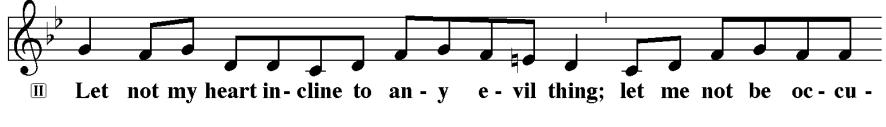
 ① O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick-ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.



 ② Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
 the lift- ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



 ① Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



 ② Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -
 pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



 ① But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.



 ② Glory to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it;
 ① as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men.



 G Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
 the lift- ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Silence for meditation.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

Amen

In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir- it re- joic- es in
God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa- vor on his low- ly ser- vant.
From this day all gen- er - a - tions will call me bless - ed.
The Al-mighty has done great things for me, and ho - ly is his name.
He has mer-cy on those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen- er - a - tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat - tered the
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y from their thrones,
and has lift - ed up the low - ly. He has filled the
hun - gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty.

He has come to the help of his servant Is - ra - el,
for he has re-mem-bered his prom-ise of mer- cy, the prom- ise he
made to our fa-thers, to A- bra - ham and his chil- dren for - ev - er.
Glo - ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

A responsive reading from **Psalm 51:1-17** which David pours his heart out to God after Nathan has confronted him over his sins with Bathsheba and Uriah.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash 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.

**⁴Against 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.

**⁶Indeed, 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.

**⁸Let 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.

**¹⁰Create 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.

**¹²Restore 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.

**¹⁴Rescue 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.

**¹⁶For 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.

Imposition of Ashes

You are invited to come forward and to receive the mark of the ashes on your forehead and/or your hand.

"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" "**Amen**"

ELW 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, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch-ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

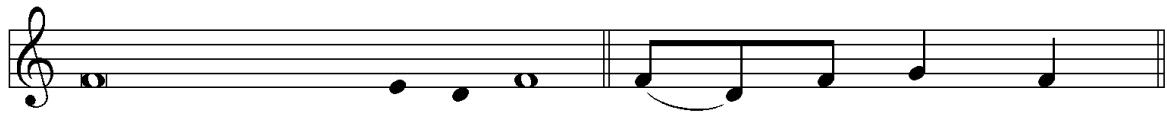


5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868



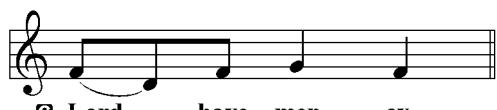
¶ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - ey.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



¶ Lord, have mer - ey.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



¶ Lord, have mer - ey.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



¶ Lord, have mer - ey.

For all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.



¶ Lord, have mer - ey.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.



¶ Lord, have mer - ey.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.



¶ Lord, have mer - ey.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for meditation

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



To you, O Lord.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING



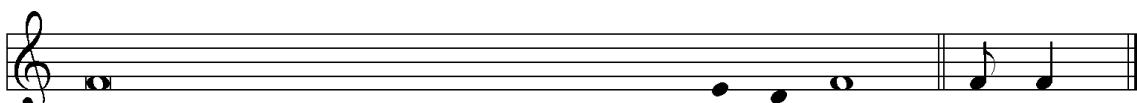
OFFERING

Please place offerings in the basket in the narthex

REMEMBERING & RENEWING REFLECTION

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BENEDICTION



¶ The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless . . . and pre-serve us.

¶ **A - men**

ELW 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me. mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

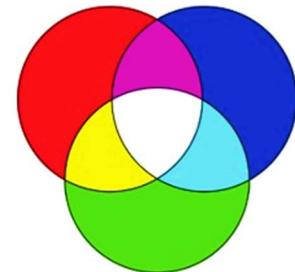
Please come back next week (and bring some friends)
as we continue our Lenten series with
soup supper at 6:00 PM and service at 7:00 PM

2026 Lenten Series Letting our Lights So Shine Colorfully

February 18-March 25

Holden Evening Prayer and Colorful Reflections

Soup Suppers beginning at 6:00, February 25-March 25



Feb 18
Ash Wednesday

Feb 25

BLUE

Knowing ourselves

Mar 4

GREEN

Knowing our neighbors

Mar 11

RED

Knowing the message

Mar 18

CYAN

Being Community (ourselves + neighbors with presence)

Mar 25

MAGENTA

Being Authentic (ourselves + message with integrity)

YELLOW

Bearing a Winsome and Salutary word (neighbors + message with context)

Pastor: Karl Hester
Music Director: Jon Abrams
Liturgist: Bill Mitchell
Altar: Marge Ball
Bread: Kathy Brundage
Tech: Roxanne Meldrum



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