

Ash Wednesday • March 5, 2025

Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

Words of Welcome Prelude

Psalm 51 Marilyn Sharp, soloist J. Marshall

Create in me, O God, a clean heart. Put a new and right spirit within me; create in me, O God, a clean heart.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places.

Thanks be to God.

* HYMN 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, whose ways are good and true, we confess that we have not lived as Christ has called us to live. We have shut our eyes to evils our world allows. We have sealed our ears from the cries of the suffering whose pain we abide. We have clung to the hostility we harbor against one another and hardened our hearts to the creative power of love. Therefore we pray: open our eyes to see injustice in our world. Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress the poor. Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy. Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of your creation. Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife. Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace. Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near and far. Give us a desire to embody the compassion of Christ. For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ we pray. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

Kyrie (Hymn 551)

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Grant, O God, Your Blessing Cherub & Junior Choirs; Dr. Wendy Gunther, conductor M. Bedford

OT pg. 520

Psalm 51:1-17 (NRSV)

Grant, O God, your blessing on us as we pray; grant, O God, your blessing on us all this day. Just as Jesus prayed to you in the wilderness, let us pray ev'ry day; hear, O Lord, and bless. For the things that we do wrong, please O God, forgive. Help us all, great and small, live as Jesus lived. Amen.

*All that are able please stand.

GOSPEL READING This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Offering Offertory

From the Dust

Marilyn Sharp, soloist

From the dust we came, to the dust we shall return. God everlasting, age unto age the same. We are a moment then like a breath we fade. From the dust we came, to the dust we shall return. God everlasting, we are cut down like grass. Seeds in the morning, and by night we pass. O Lord, have mercy.

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

REPENTANCE AND GRACE

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. **In life and in death, I belong to God.**

PREPARATION OF THE **T**ABLE

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

O for a Closer Walk with God

CAITHNESS

* **B**ENEDICTION

Нуми 739

John 11:1-16 (NRSV) NT pg. 104

Rev. Mark Hults

P. Zach

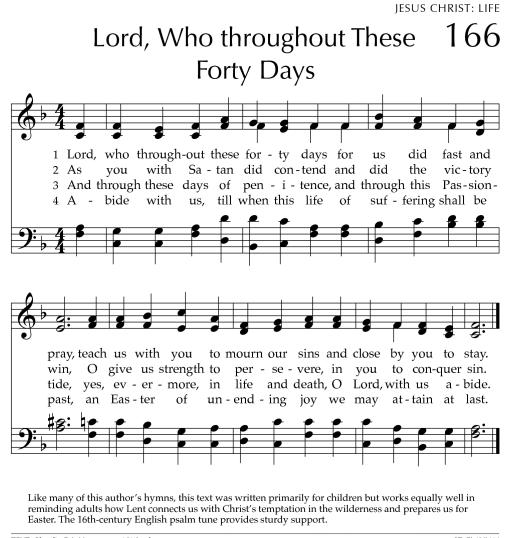
Hymn 606

(Gluten Free Bread)

THIS EVENING IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick CHERUB CHOIR, JUNIOR CHOIR ELDER ON DUTY: Greg Dowling USHERS: Roger Bachmann, Paul Bennett, Dick Rauber, Carol Turner A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Dink Henderson

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter and to renew our life in the mystery of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence of the community of faith. We invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy lent by self examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God, beginning with this service today.



TEXT: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt. MUSIC: Day's *Psalter*, 1562

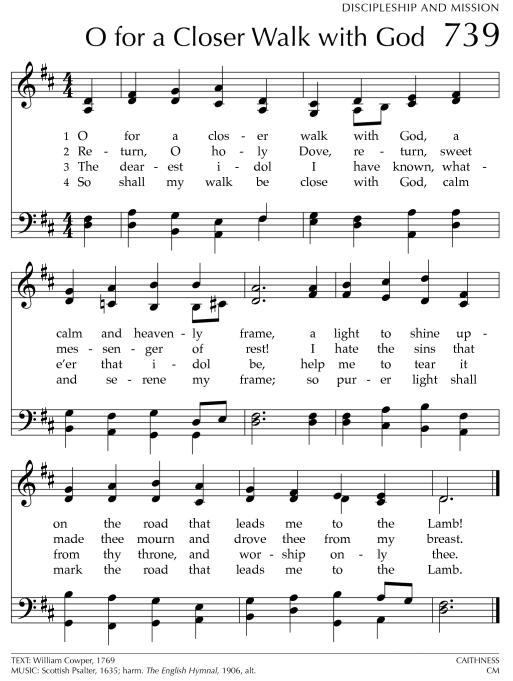
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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51:1-17 (NRSV)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against 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. ⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. ⁶You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. ¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-16 (NRSV)

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings and for the special worship services during this Lenten and Easter Season:

Holy Week

April 13 • Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. *Nursery care is available beginning at 10:45 a.m.

April 17 • Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-17; 31b-35 Worship 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

April 18 • Good Friday

The Seven Last Words of Christ Worship 6:30 p.m.

> Saturday, April 19 Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Gordon Hall

April 20 • Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion and 11 a.m. on our YouTube Channel *Nursery care is available beginning at 8:15 and 10:25 a.m.



Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast **cc** Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at <u>1stpc.org</u>



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