

ASH WEDNESDAY



ELMIRA AREA ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY
HOLY EUCHARIST
VIRTUAL SERVICE
FEBRUARY 17, 2021
7:00PM

THE PRELUDE

*What wondrous love is this
I will arise and go to Jesus*

OFFERED BY NEW BEGINNINGS

Arranged by John Innes
Arranged by Mark Hayes

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

See page 8

CHANGE OUR HEARTS

OFFERED BY RAY OF HOPE

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE LESSONS

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near--

a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14

8 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.

a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;

gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD,
weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

- 10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 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.
- 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.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake God 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

See page 9

YOU ARE NEAR

OFFERED BY ST. MATTHEW'S

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
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.”

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

THE SERMON

THE REV. WANDA COPELAND

THE INVITATION TO A HOLY OBSERVANCE OF LENT

The People stand.

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, all kneeling.

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 IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to now use ashes to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand. If you are with others, please consider marking one another. If you do not have ashes, please feel free to get creative to find a way to wear an image of the cross as a reminder. You may speak the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

HYMN

JESUS, REMEMBER ME

OFFERED BY BETHANY LUTHERAN

See page 9

LITANY OF PENITANCE

BCP 267

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.

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, and 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 Priest continues

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 ministers to declare and pronounce to God's people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe the holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech God to grant us true repentance and the 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 eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

LOAVES WERE BROKEN

OFFERED BY BETHANY LUTHERAN

See page 10

All things come of You, O Lord

And of your own have we given You.

THE INVITATION

The Iona Community Worship Book

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ.

It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;

You who have been here often

and you who have not been for a long time or ever before;

You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;

Come, not because the church invites you;

It is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

BCP 364

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

THE SANCTUS

OFFERED BY WESTSIDE

D F#m/A A7 A7/B Bm G A7/G G G/D D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you. My
 San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra. Mi

G A7/G D A/C# Bm Bm/A Em7 A7 G/A D

heart is glad to say the words: you are Ho - ly, Lord!
 co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Señ - or.

WORDS and MUSIC: Latin American, 20th c.; arr. Allen Pote (1945-)
 Music Arr. © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father, ***We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A prayer for all who are participating online and unable to receive communion at this time.

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

TURN TO ME

OFFERED BY RAY OF HOPE

See page 11

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

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.

THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourself, and to take up your cross and follow him, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life be with you and remain with you for ever.

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

O love how deep, how broad, how high

OFFERED BY NEW BEGINNINGS

Arranged by David N. Johnson

Thank you to all who contributed towards this service:

Music Offerings:

Kaiden Rae Benedict (<i>AKA Kenneth Richard Ryan</i>)	Ray Of Hope Church
Br. Shawn Benedict	Ray Of Hope Church
Dan Brayer	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Janice Brown	New Beginnings United Methodist Church
Donna Haggard-Hoff	Westside United Methodist Church
Rev. Donald Hoff	Westside United Methodist Church

Bethany Lutheran Choir: Lauri Schwenke, Candy Peris, Ruth Riesbeck, Karen Immerman, Cynthia Klingensmith, Candy Lowry, Linda Yusko, Sue Laib, Frances McLaren, Bill Wolfe, Roger Behrens, Jim Allen, and Terry Teufel. Judy Blair as minister of music and Frances McLaren as pianist.

Readings:

David Bates	New Beginnings United Methodist Church
Margaret "Peggy" Chaffee	Grace Episcopal Church
Melody Chilson	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Jean Coons	Webb Mills United Methodist Church
Margaret "Maggie" Davis	Bethany Lutheran
Connie Thompson	Westside United Methodist Church
Whitney Tipton	Ray of Hope Church

Clergy:

The Rev. Roger Behrens	Bethany Lutheran Church
The Rev. Br. Shawn Benedict	Ray Of Hope Church
The Rev. Wanda Copeland	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Donald Hoff	Westside United Methodist Church
The Rev. Pat Hubman	New Beginnings United Methodist Church
The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones	Grace Episcopal Church
The Rev. Holly Strickland	Webb Mills United Methodist Church

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

CHANGE OUR HEARTS

Rory Cooney

Refrain



Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be. Change our minds this time, your life could make us free. We are the people your call set a-part, Lord, this time change our hearts. hearts. This time change our hearts. This time change our minds. This time change our hearts, change our hearts.

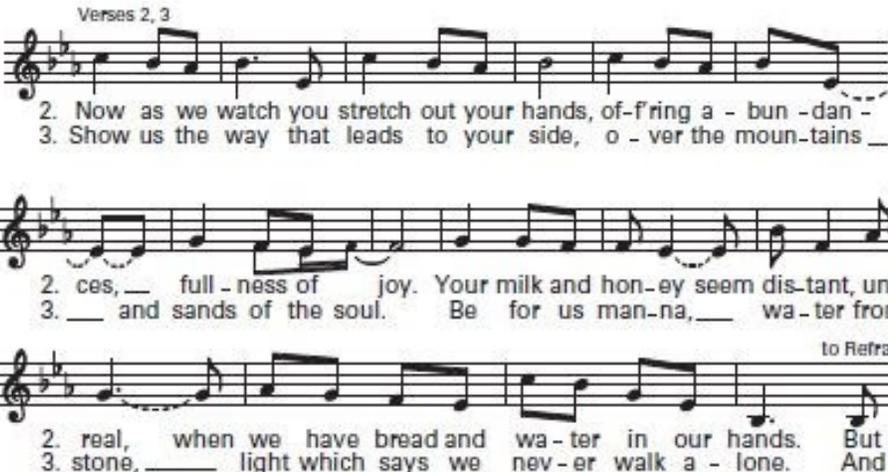
1-3 to Verses Final

Verse 1



1. Brought by your hand to the edge of our dreams, one foot in 1. par-a-dise, one in the waste; drawn by your prom-is-es, 1. still we are lured by the shad-ows and the chains we leave be-hind. But

Verses 2, 3



2. Now as we watch you stretch out your hands, of-tring a - bun - dan - ces, full - ness of joy. Your milk and hon-ey seem dis-tant, un- 3. Show us the way that leads to your side, o - ver the moun-tains and sands of the soul. Be for us man-na, wa - ter from 2. real, when we have bread and wa - ter in our hands. But 3. stone, light which says we nev - er walk a - lone. And

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

YOU ARE NEAR

Dan Schutte

Refrain

O Lord, I know you are near, stand-ing al-ways at my side. You guard me from the foe, and you lead me in ways ev-er - last-ing.

Verses

1. Lord, — you have searched my heart, and you know when I
2. Where — can I run from your love? If I climb to the
3. You — know my heart and its ways, you who formed me be-
4. Mar-vel-ous to me are your works; how pro-found are your

1. sit and when I stand. Your — hand is up - on me, pro-
2. heav-ens you are there; if I fly to the sun - rise or
3. fore I was born, in the se-cret of dark-ness be-
4. thoughts, my — Lord. E-ven if I could count them, they

to Refrain

1. tect-ing me from death, keep-ing me from harm.
2. sail be-yond the sea, still I'd find you there.
3. fore I saw the sun, in my moth-er's womb.
4. num-ber as the stars, you would still be there.

Text based on Psalm 139. Text and music © 1971, 2008, OCP. All rights reserved.

DURING ASH DISTRIBUTION

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
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

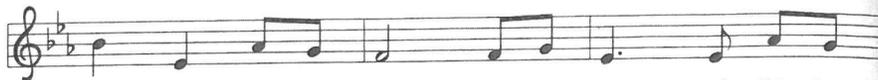
THE OFFERTORY HYMN

HOLY COMMUNION

966 Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

JOYOUS LIGHT
B 7 8 7 D

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN

TURN TO ME

John Foley, S.J.

Refrain

Turn to me, O turn, and be saved, says the Lord, for
I am God; there is no oth-er, none be -
side me. I call your name.

Verse 1

1. I am God, who com-forts you; who are
1. you to be a-fraid of flesh that fades, is
1. made like the grass of the field, soon to with-er.

to Refrain

Verses 2, 3

2. Lis-ten to me, my peo-ple; give ear to
3. Lift up your eyes to the heav-ens, and look at the
2. me, my na-tion: a law will go forth from
3. earth down be-low. The heav-ens will van-ish like
2. me, and my jus-tice for a light to the peo-ple.
3. smoke, and the earth will wear out like a gar-ment.

to Refrain

Text: Based on Isaiah 45:22-23; 51:12, 4, 6. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J., and OCP. All rights reserved.