

Elmira Area Clergy Group

present

The 2025 Ecumenical
Ash Wednesday Worship



Hosted by :

Bethany Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dan May, Pastor
256 S. Walnut St.
Elmira, NY 14904

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
7:00 PM

Worship Communities Participating in tonight's Service:

Bethany Lutheran Church - Host Church
Rev. Dan May

North Presbyterian Church
Rev. Evan Hansen

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. - LGBTQSIANE2++
Rev. Br. Shawn Benedict

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira
Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron

New Beginnings United Methodist Church
Rev. Pat Hubman

The United Baptist Church

Webb Mills United Methodist Church
Rev. Holly Strickland

Horseheads Presbyterian Church
Rev. Aaron Frank

Monumental Baptist Church
Rev. Corey Cooke
Rev. Simon Bailor

Resurrection Tabernacle
Rev. Gerald Glover

PRELUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee

-Bill Ingram

North Presbyterian Church Bell Choir

directed by Paul Holland, Music Director

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Rev. May

GATHERING SONG & PROCESSION

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW #859

accompanist: Frances McLaren

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won - drous - ly reign - ing.
 3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros - pers your work and de - fends you;
 4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!

My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.

Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.
 Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;
 Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,

Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.
 sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.
 in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690; tr. composite
 MUSIC: LOBE DEN HERRN, *Fraewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Straßsund, 1665
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GREETING

Rev. May

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cynthia Klingensmith

L: Friends and neighbors, in the middle of our busy week, we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as people of faith.

ALL: We come to remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust. And breathes through us the breath of life and love.

L: From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

ALL: With dust and oil we claim the mark as God's beloved children.

L: Today we begin our forty-day Lenten journey hoping to deepen our awareness of who we are created to be as God's beloved.

ALL: By using daily practices of prayer and service we will embark upon this Lenten Journey.

P: We follow Jesus, God's beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, in whom we see God's image most clearly.

ALL: So come, and pray for strength, renewal and fresh imagination to follow Jesus wherever He will lead us this Lent. Amen.

HYMN

Just As I Am

ELW #592

Accompanied by Brother Shawn Benedict

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Rev. Corey Cooke, Monumental Baptist Church

L: Loving God, we bless you for bringing us here tonight. Open our hearts as we listen to your Holy Word, and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit help us to put your Word into action. We ask this through Christ our Lord,

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

Rev. Simon Bailor, the Associate Pastor at Monumental Baptist Church

Here begins the reading.

"Shout for all you are worth, raise your voice like a trumpet! Proclaim to the people their faults, tell the house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob their sins! They seek me daily, they long to know my ways, like a nation that wants to act with integrity and not ignore the Law of its God. They ask me for laws that are just, they long for God to draw near. Yet they say, 'Why should we fast if you never see it? Why do penance if you never notice?' Because when you fast, it's business as usual, and you oppress all your workers! Because when you fast, you quarrel and fight and strike the poor with your fist! Fasting like yours today will never make your voice heard on high! Is that the sort of fast that pleases me—a day when people humiliate themselves, hanging their heads like a reed, lying down on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call fasting, a day acceptable to YHWH?

On the contrary! This is the sort of fast that pleases me: Remove the chains of injustice! Undo the ropes of the yoke! Let those who are oppressed go free, and break every yoke you encounter! Share your bread with those who are hungry, and shelter homeless poor people! Clothe those who are naked, and don't hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood! Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn—and your healing will break forth like lightning! Your integrity will go before you, and the glory of YHWH will be your rearguard. Cry, and YHWH will answer; call, and God will say, 'I am here'—provided you remove from your midst all oppression, finger pointing, and malicious talk! If you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows will become like noon. YHWH will always guide you, giving relief in desert places. God will give strength to your bones and you will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never run dry. You will rebuild the ancient ruins, and build upon age-old foundations. You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, and Restorer of Ruined Neighborhoods.

This is the Word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-17

accompanied by Rev. Benedict

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your com-passion blot out my of-fense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My of-fenses tru-ly I know them;
my sin is always be-fore me.

Against you, you a-lone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge.

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I con-ceived.

In-deed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear re-joicing and gladness
that the bones you have crushed may re-vive.

From my sins turn a-way your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart cre-ate for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit with-in me.

Do not cast me a-way from your presence,
nor de-prive me of your Holy Spirit.

Give me a-gain the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sus-tain me,

that I may teach trans-gressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Praise God, the Christ and Holy Spirit
both now forever, A-men.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Ian McLaughlin, Ray of Hope

We implore you in Christ's name: be reconciled to God. For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to be sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness

of God. As Christ's coworkers we beg you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For God says through Isaiah, "At the acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!

We take pains to avoid giving offense to anyone, for we don't want our ministry to be blamed. Instead, in all that we do we try to present ourselves as ministers of God, acting with patient endurance amid trials, difficulties, distresses, beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger. We conduct ourselves with innocence, knowledge, patience and kindness in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, with the message of truth and the power of God, wielding the weapons of justice with both right hand and left—regardless of whether we are honored or dishonored, spoken of favorably or unfavorably. We are called impostors, yet we are truthful; we are called unknowns, yet we are famous; we are said to be dying, yet we are alive; punished, but not put to death; sorrowful, though we are always rejoicing; poor, yet we enrich many. We seem to have nothing, yet we possess everything! This is the Word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able

GOSPEL HYMN Thy Word - Amy Grant Accompanied by Paul Holland, Choir Director on Guitar and Brother Shawn Benedict, pianist.

Thy Word

*Words and Music by
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith*

CHORUS

♩ = 70

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path. *Fine*

VERSE

1. When I feel a - fraid, and I think I've lost my way, still You're there right be -
2. I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is

side me. Noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me
wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; I will love You

16

to the end.
to the end.

Thy Word. TEXT: Amy Grant, 1984 MUSIC: Michael W. Smith, 1984; arr. John Sharber Text and Music © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)/Word Music. CCLI Song #14301 CCLI License # 2582587 and CCLI Streaming License #2582587

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Liz Holloway, First Presbyterian Church

L: A reading from the gospel of Saint Matthew, the 6th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: Jesus was teaching and he said: "Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven. "When you do acts of charity, for example, don't have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full. But when you do acts of charity, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be done in secret, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will repay you. "And when you pray, don't behave like the hypocrites; they love to pray standing up in the synagogues and on street corners for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to God who is in that secret place, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will reward you.

"And when you fast, don't look depressed like the hypocrites. They deliberately neglect their appearance to let everyone know that they are fasting. The truth is, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Don't let anyone know you're fasting except your Abba God, who sees all that is done in secret. And Abba God—who sees everything that is done in secret—will reward you. "Don't store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal them. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON:

Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron, First Presbyterian Church

CHORAL ANTHEM

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

-Carl F. Muller

Combined Choir

accompanist: Gary Tucker, organist First Presbyterian Church

INVITATION TO LENT

Sharon Bowling, New Beginnings United Methodist Church

Friends in Christ, today, with the whole Church, we enter the forty days of Lent, by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.

However, too often, our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation so that we do not enjoy the life Our Creator intended.

As his disciples, Jesus calls us to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Therefore, I invite you to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, sacrificial giving, and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of Word and Sacrament.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Melissa & Miles Moore, First Presbyterian Church

In silent prayer, we begin by confessing our failures and sins to God.

Please observe silent prayer.

Most holy and merciful God,

ALL: we confess to you and one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone.

David Hansen, North Presbyterian Church

Sometimes we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. At times we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

When we shut our ears to your call to serve others as Christ served us, we fail to listen to the mind of Christ, and we grieve your Holy Spirit. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lexi Hoskins-Thomas, North Presbyterian Church

We confess that sometimes we are unfaithful; we could pray more often and give you more priority. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

Sometimes we can be very self-centered and turn inward and miss the opportunity to help others. We pray to you, Lord

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

Molly Moshier, Bethany Lutheran Church

We confess to you that sometimes we neglect someone's need and suffering or show indifference to injustice and cruelty. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and we make false judgments about those who differ from us. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

Jaleya Cooke, Monumental Baptist Church

We confess that we litter and pollute your creation and make choices that seem to lack concern for those who come after us. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

Corey Cameron Cooke Jr., Monumental Baptist Church

Restore us, and let your anger depart from us. We pray to you, Lord.

ALL: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

BLESSING OF ASHES

Rev. Cooke

L: Almighty God, you became dust for each of us, taking upon yourself all our sins on the Cross of Calvary. Out of the dust of the earth, you have created each of us and, through your sacrifice for us, have freed us from all of our wrongdoings. We ask for your blessing on these ashes and on us as we receive them this night. May these ashes signify our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Rev. Strickland

At this time, please follow the ushers' directions to the stations where you see the pastors with the ashes for distribution.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Frances McLaren

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Rev. Hansen

L: Please join me in the responsorial words of assurance.

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

ALL: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

ALL: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

L: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. Hear the Good News! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit our sins are forgiven.,

ALL: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Hubman

L: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the Church, the world, and all who are in need. Our response will be, "receive our prayer."

Rev. Bailor

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Inspire our

leaders to share financial resources with those who have suffered from natural disasters or accidents. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Joel Robinson, North Presbyterian

We pray for renewal in our civic life, O God. Inspire those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and have the courage to make difficult decisions for equality. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Ann Welch Wood, Webb Mills United Methodist

Renew our lives, O God. We pray for people suffering from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit, especially those who suffer from a lack of access to healthcare. May our leaders be inspired to share resources so people all over the globe have access to healing and comfort, especially for those overcome by illness or grief. We can proclaim true joy after we bring healthcare, food, and comfort. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Joan Clements, New Beginnings United Methodist

Renew our congregations, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Kaiden Rae Benedict, Ray Of Hope

Renew our commitment to welcome all people into our church family. Help us see there is one race, the Human Race, with all the beauty of multiple ethnicities, gender expressions, family structures, loves, and relationships. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Reilly Stedje, Bethany Lutheran

Help us move away from religious regulations, rules, and rituals and toward renewing and refocusing our purpose toward worship and service. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Tara Clark, Resurrection Tabernacle Leadership

L: We pray for renewal in our civic life and a renewed desire for World Peace, O God. We pray that the leaders of our countries and all governments will choose diplomacy over war and aggression. Inspire them to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and to have the courage to make difficult decisions for all. Let your peace and justice be our goal with your help, Holy Spirit. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Rev. Hubman

L: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need for the sake of Jesus Christ. Merciful God, we pray,

ALL: receive our prayer.

SIGN OF PEACE

Helen Vincent, United Baptist Choir Director

L: Jesus said; "My peace I leave you, my peace I give you." Jesus is present, and we can give His peace to each other. Therefore, I say, the peace of the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Share the sign of peace now.

REPRISE

My Jesus, I Love Thee

-Bill Ingram

North Presbyterian Church Bell Choir

directed by Paul Holland, Music Director

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

OFFERING

Lisa Frost, Ray Of Hope

L: At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for the ministry. After we deduct our expenses we will donate the remainder of the offering to The Food Bank of the Southern Tier. Checks may be made out to Bethany Lutheran Church. Please write Ash Wednesday in the memo. All loose cash in the offering plates will go to this special Ash Wednesday event. Thank you for your generosity and support for our Elmira Area Clergy special events like this one. Now, we invite the ushers to come forward. Please raise your hand to receive the offering plate. Thank you.

SONG

Christ Be Our Light

LBW #715

Accompanied by Paul Holland, Choir Director playing the Guitar, and Brother Shawn Benedict, Pianist at Ray Of Hope Church



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow`r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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OFFERING PRAYER

Rev. Strickland

L: Let us pray. God, our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these, your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, and increase them to do the ministry through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

L: Please rise as you are able and sing the Doxology as we conclude the Liturgy of the Word and begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

HYMN

Sing Doxology

Frances McLaren - organ

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise God, all creatures here below.
 Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.
 Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen!**

COMMUNION INVITATION

Rev. Glover

L: This table of the Lord Jesus is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Come from the east, the west, the north, and the south, for all are welcome to this Table of the Lord.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. May

L: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Rev. Hansen

L: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith.

Rev. Benedict

L: We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

Rev. Cooke

L: We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, suffer and die on the cross for us, be raised from death on the third day, and then live in glory.

ALL: Amen.

Rev. Hubman

L: It is right that we should give you thanks and praise. We bless you, O God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the Church you have gathered. With your children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

SANCTUS (*spoken*)

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Rev. Strickland

L: On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my Body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Rev. May

L: When the supper was ended, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Rev. Rubier-Capron

L: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Rev. Frank

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the body and blood of Christ for us.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Rev. Glover

L: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we made one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Rev. Hubman

L: Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor are your, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Rev. Benedict

L: Now, we pray together as Christ our Savior has taught us.

ALL: 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Rev. Strickland

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ. The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for us.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Hansen

L: Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Please follow the directions of the ushers to one of the four available communion stations. All the bread today is gluten-free. Each station has both wine and grape juice.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Frances McLaren

COMMUNION MUSIC

Blessed Assurance

LBW #638 Black Gospel style

Arranged by Br. Shawn F. Benedict & Brian Ellison for Ash Wednesday 2025

♩. = 32

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2. mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3. mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal -
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and

- va - tion, pur - chase of God. Born of the
 - scend - ing, bring from a - bove ech - oes of
 wait - ing, look - ing a - bove. filled with his

Spi - rit; washed in his blood.
 mer - cy, whis - pers of love. *This is my*
 good - ness, lost in his love. *sto - ry,*

this is my song. Prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day

12 13

long! This is my sto - ry, this is my
 song. Prais - ing my Sav - - ior all the day

14 15

1.2. 3.

16 17

long! 2. Per - fect sub long!
3. Per - fect sub

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908). Re-harmonized and arranged by Shawn F. Benedict & Brian Ellison (2025).
 Music transcribed and scored by Randy Cornell

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Katrina Lourdiane

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Hubman

L: Let us pray.

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love and that your Church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Glory Of These Forty Days

Frances McLaren - Organ

1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2. Then grant that we like saints be true, con -

ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for
- sumed in fast and prayer with you; our

Christ, by whom all things were made, him -
spir - its strength - en with your grace. and

- self has fast - ed and has prayed.
give us joy to see your face.

TEXT: Gregory the Great, 6th cent.; trans. Maurice F. Ball, 1906, alt
MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1567, adapt.

TALLIS' CANON
LM

Music: Tallis Canon, Text: Gregory the Great 6th Century. Public Domain

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Glover

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Special Thanks to the following people

Choir Director - Randy Cornell

Musicians - Paul Holland, Br. Shawn Benedict, Gary Tucker, Frances McLaren

Lectors / Readers - Ashley Wilson, Ian McLaughlin, Liz Holloway

Ushers – Tom Hornbeck, George Sarno, Kris Schwenke, Karl Slusser, Tom Yusko

Worship Leaders :

Cynthia Klingensmith

Ian McLaughlin

Liz Holloway

Sharon Bowling

Joel Robinson

Joan Clements

Tara Clark

Helen Vincent

Reilly Stedge

Ann Welch Wood

Kaiden Rae Benedict

Lisa Frost

Katrina Lourdiane

Alida Schamel

Chuck Stewart

Melissa Moore

Youth Leaders:

Miles Moore

David Hansen

Lexi Hoskins-Thomas

Molly Moshier

Jaleya Cooke

Corey Cameron Cook Jr.

Office Assistants and Editors – Tina Brannon, Bethany Lutheran Church, Gretchen Duffy, North Presbyterian Church and Katrina Lourdiane, First Presbyterian & Ray Of Hope Church

Social Hour Coordinators – the Fellowship team at Bethany

Technology Support Staff: Cynthia & Kirk Klingensmith, Judy Blair

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