

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Divine Service, Setting Three – LSB 184

Noon and 7:00* p.m.

*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO FREELY GIVES

The Christmas trees we decorated with careful hands just a few months ago have come and gone. The account of our salvation in Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, has progressed from the manger through the Epiphany light of our Lord's proclamation of "liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18; see Isaiah 61:1). The palm fronds we held and waved with our hands with cheers and hosannas a year ago have since withered and turned to the ashes we bless this night in hope.

Lent returns, reminding us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the "not yet" of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God's mercy, grace, and deliverance.

We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own bloody, substitutionary sacrifice in our own human flesh for us and for our salvation. With the pastor's hands the ashes of our failings and sin are placed over the sign we received at our Baptism, and we are welcomed to repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✠ [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) ✠ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

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Today, for the half hour prior to and following our worship services, worshipers have the opportunity to approach the communion rail and receive ashes on their foreheads. The ashes applied by the Pastor are from the palm branches that were used last Palm Sunday. Their use suggests in a dramatic way God’s judgment and condemnation of sin; our frailty and total dependence on God; humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposed, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” were first spoken to Adam after his fall into sin. We are forcefully reminded of the words of the committal in the Burial Service, “...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment and baptismal cleansing.

Even if you do not receive ashes, we encourage you to spend this time in meditation – on the lessons and hymns for this evening, or in prayer.

Holy Communion is being celebrated in our service. You may indicate your presence at the Lord's Supper on the fellowship booklet. *Please consult with one of our pastors before communing at Faith for the first time.*

✠ ✠ ✠ **GATHERING** ✠ ✠ ✠

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times, the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

LITANY

P	O Lord,	C	have mercy.
P	O Christ,	C	have mercy.
P	O Lord,	C	have mercy.
P	O Christ,	C	hear us.

P God the Father in heaven, **C** **have mercy.**
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C** **have mercy.**
P God the Holy Spirit, **C** **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us. **C** **Spare us, good Lord.**
P Be gracious to us. **C** **Help us, good Lord.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** **have mercy.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** **have mercy.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ, **C** **hear us.**
P O Lord, **C** **have mercy.**
P O Christ, **C** **have mercy.**
P O Lord, **C** **have mercy. Amen.**

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 419 – Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy

[C] Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And with thy spirit.

[P] Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Joel 2:12–19 – Return to Me with all your heart.

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to Me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and He relents over disaster.
¹⁴Who knows whether He will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind Him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;

gather the children,
even nursing infants.

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

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare Your people, O LORD,
and make not Your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for His land
and had pity on His people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to His people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL – Sung by congregation. – *Hebrews 12:2*



**O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.**

EPISTLE – **2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10** – Be reconciled to God in Christ.

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
²For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,

⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE – *Joel 2:13b*



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL – **Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21** – Works of righteousness are not for show, but for your neighbor.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But

when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.



SERIES HYMN – The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

KING'S LYNN

English

Coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



1 The Word that spoke in dark - ness And prom - ised com - ing
2 The Sav - ior came to con - quer And meet His mis - sion's
3 The Christ pro - claimed His vic - t'ry With ev - 'ry act of
4 The Prince of Peace con - tin - ued With each new task com -



light Kept guid - ing through the a - ges Un - til the time was
aim: Up - end - ing Sa - tan's ter - ror, Cre - a - tion to re -
grace: The out - cast shown com - pas - sion And God's own ho - ly
plete At cross and tomb and glo - ry Up - on His roy - al



right To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa - ther's good com -
claim By walk - ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may
face As Je - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - 'ry
seat, De - liv - er - ance ac - com - plished Ex - act - ly as He



mand And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.
stand With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.
land Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.
planned; Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

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SERMON

OFFERING – *We gather the Offering in silence while the altar is prepared.*

OFFERTORY – Psalm 51:10-12

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- A** ...let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** ... one God, no and forever. **C** Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠
 LSB 194

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** It is meet and right so to do.
- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and singing:

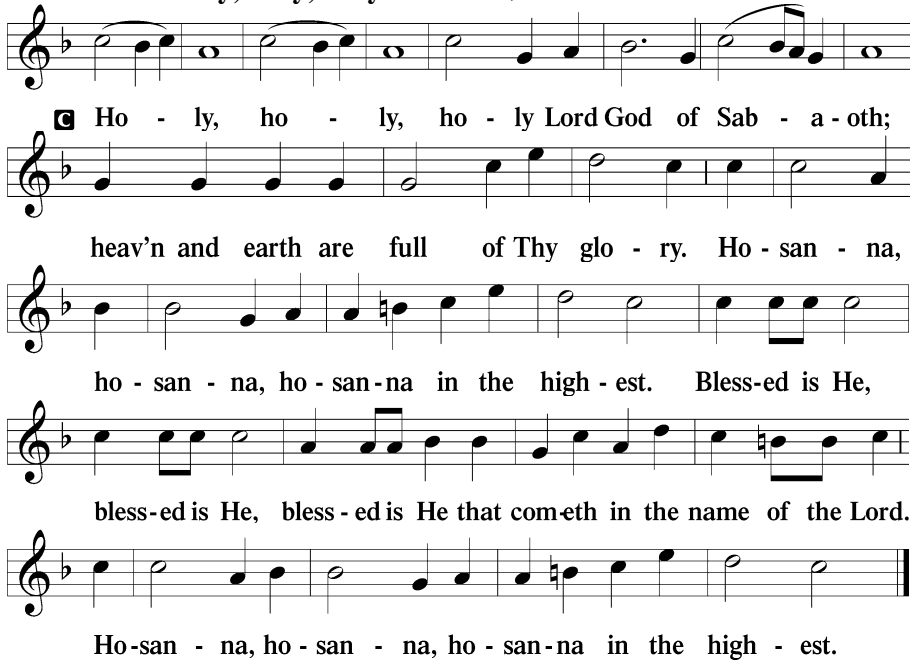
For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is truly present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith,** we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper,** please speak with one of our pastors.

SANCTUS – Holy, Holy, Holy – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

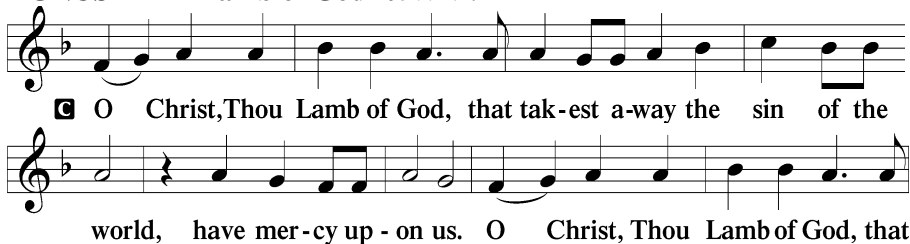
LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God - *John 1:29*



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.

DISTRIBUTION

LSB 607 – From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
 2 Thy love and grace a-lone a-vail To blot out
 3 There-fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 And though it tar-ry through the night And till the
 5 Though great our sins, yet great-er still Is God's a-
 trib-u-la-tion; Bend down Thy gra-cious
 my trans-gres-sion; The best and ho-liest
 mine own mer-it; It rests up-on His
 morn-ing wak-en, My heart shall nev-er
 bun-dant fa-vor; His hand of mer-cy
 ear to me, Lord, hear my sup-pli-ca-tion.
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op-pres-sion.
 faith-ful Word To them of con-trite spir-it
 doubt His might Nor count it-self for-sak-en.
 nev-er will A-ban-don us, nor wa-ver.



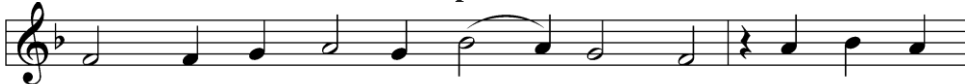
If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
 Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
 That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort
 O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it
 Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.
 Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 615 – When in the Hour of Deepest Need



1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
 3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of
 meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful
 cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -
 woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,
 God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
 lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
 down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

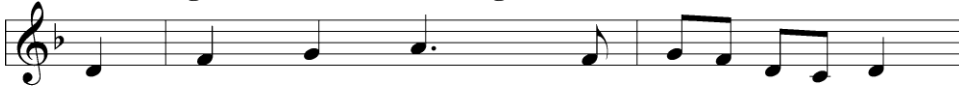
5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
 Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
 Be with us in our anguish still;
 Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

6 So we with all our hearts each day
 To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
 Then walk obedient to Your Word,
 And now and ever praise You, Lord.

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LSB 843 – Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

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POST-COMMUNION SONG – LSB 767 – Jesus, Remember Me

Sung as the distribution comes to a close and repeated as needed.



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.

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THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray... one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 422 – On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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SILENT PRAYER

We depart quietly, in the peace of the Lord.

*The sanctuary will remain available after the service
for silent prayer and meditation,
as well as the Imposition of Ashes.*

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