

# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 12 PM & 6 PM



## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

809 S Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956

[our-saviors.org](http://our-saviors.org)

(920) 725-3956



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

We are glad you are joining us for worship at  
**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

You may give an **Offering** in the box at the rear of the sanctuary. In addition to placing gifts in the box, this QR code can be used if you would like to give electronically through **Tithe.ly**. **Please Note:** If you give cash in an envelope, please write your name on the envelope if you want credit for it on your giving statement.



We have an open table for **Holy Communion** with two options to receive communion:

- 1) Come forward, at the direction of the ushers, to receive communion by **Intinction**. You will receive a wafer (gluten free available) and then dip it either in the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Children and others not wishing to receive communion may come forward with their hands folded to receive a blessing. Otherwise, come forward with your palms open to receive a wafer.

- 2) Stay in your pew and use the **self-contained communion cups** (wafer on the top and grape juice on the bottom). These are located in the rear of the sanctuary as you walk in.

There are portions of the worship service when the **assembly is invited to stand**. Feel free to sit anytime during worship.

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Prelude

## GATHERING

## Invocation

P We gather on this Ash Wednesday,  
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## Gathering Song: "Return to God"

ACS 921

Leader



1 In all af - flic - tion  
2 With great en - dur - ance  
3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship  
4 With hum - ble spir - it  
5 By speech that's truth - ful  
6 To cease op - pres - sion  
7 By lov - ing jus - tice  
8 With gen - tle kind - ness

Assembly



1 In all af - flic - tion  
2 With great en - dur - ance  
3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship  
4 With hum - ble spir - it  
5 By speech that's truth - ful  
6 To cease op - pres - sion  
7 By lov - ing jus - tice  
8 With gen - tle kind - ness

All



re - turn, re - turn to God.

Text: Marilyn Haskel, b. 1945  
Music: RETURN TO GOD, Marilyn Haskel  
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

## Greeting

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## Kyrie

ACS Setting 12

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Canticle for Lent: "Now Is the Time of Grace"

ACS 918

*Refrain*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va-tion.

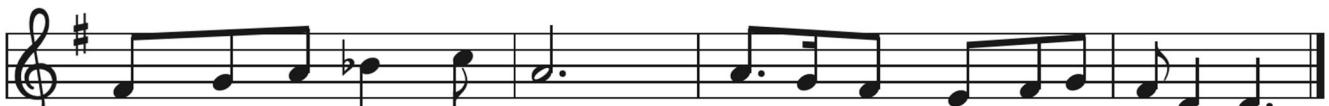
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta-tion.

1 This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of in - jus - tice, to  
let the cap-tives go free, and to break the yoke of op - pres-sion.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va-tion.



Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta-tion.



2 Shar-ing your bread with the hun-gry and wel-com-ing home-less in,

*Refrain*

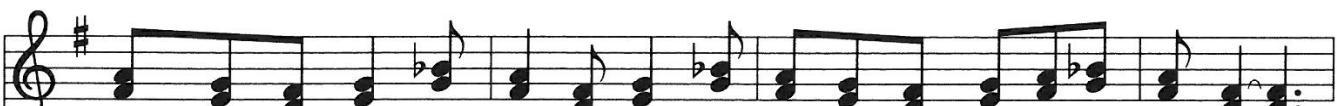
of-fer-ing hope and of-f'ring help, this is what God re - quires.

*Refrain*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va-tion.



Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta-tion.



3 Then shall your light break forth as dawn, and heal-ing shall come to you quick-ly,

*Refrain*

then you shall call and God shall an-swer, God's love shall go be - fore you.

*Refrain*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va-tion.



Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta-tion.

## Prayer of the Day

**C** Gracious God,  
out of your love and mercy  
you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.  
Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness,  
and strengthen us to face our mortality  
with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

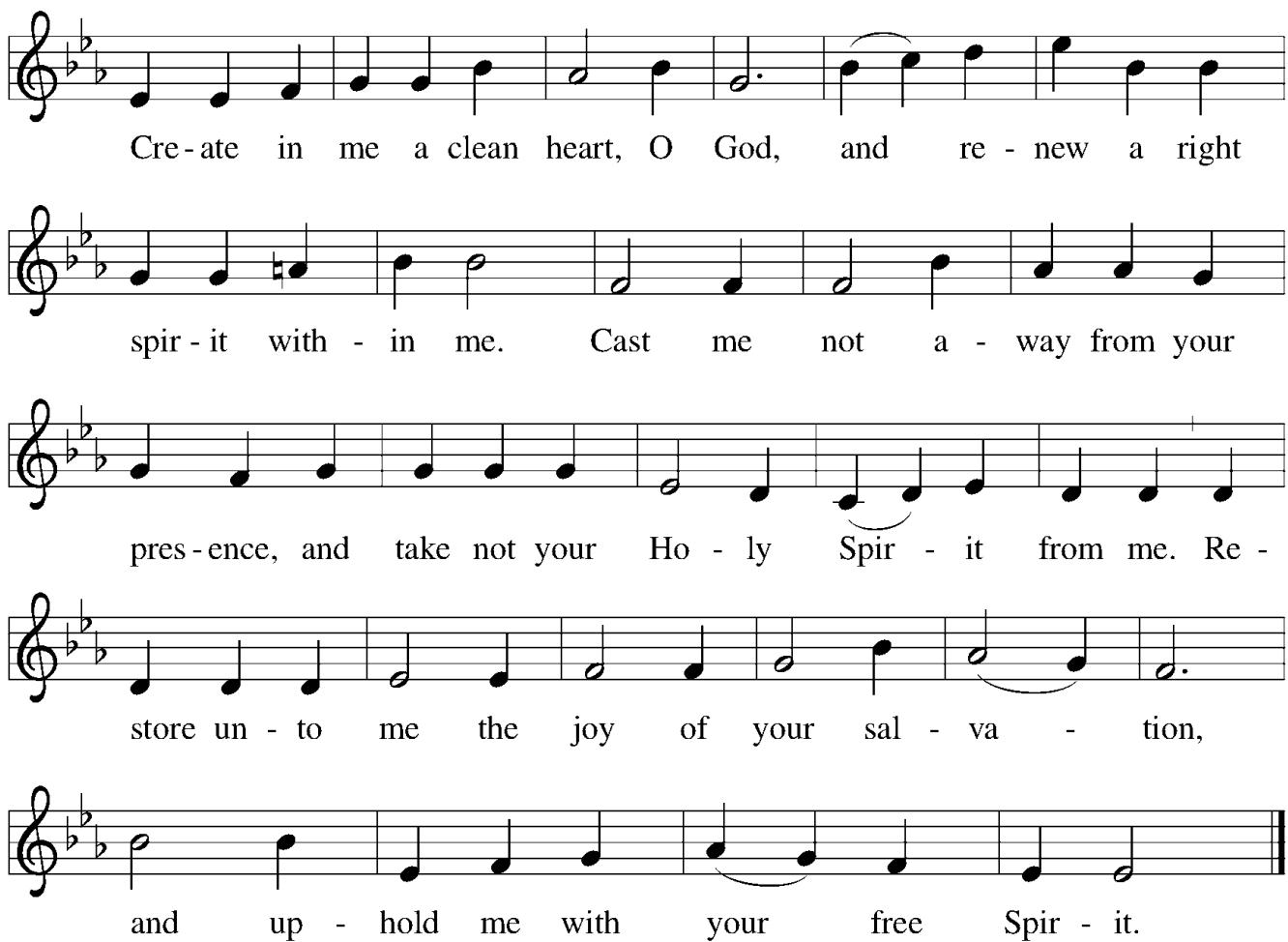
If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your  
light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will  
guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones  
strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters  
never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of  
many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to  
live in.

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

**Psalm Canticle: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"**

ELW #188



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 your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## Psalm 51:1-17

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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against 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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,**  
    **and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
    wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;**  
**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation**  
    **and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,**  
    **and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.**  
    **You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
    a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Gospel Acclamation

ACS Setting 12



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

## **Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th Chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

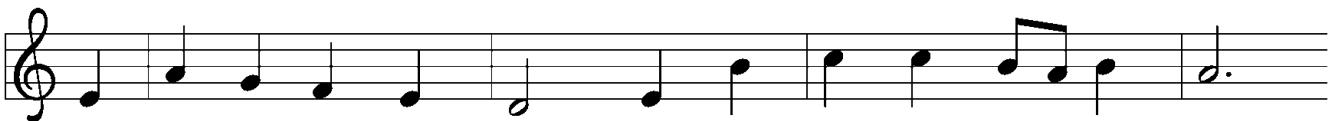
**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

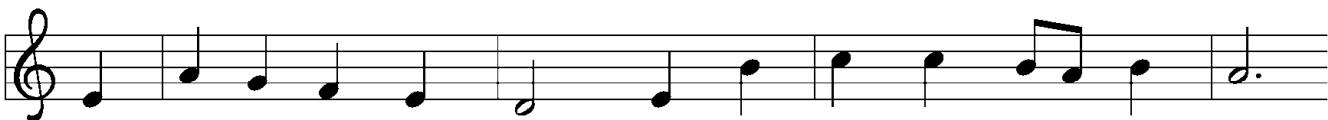
Rev. Jon Strasman, Pastor

## Hymn of the Day: "Our Father, We Have Wandered"

ELW #606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006  
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612  
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## Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season 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. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Confession of Sin

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

L Most holy and merciful God,

**C We confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault,  
by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault,  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

L 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.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L We have shut our ears 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.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

L Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **Imposition of Ashes**

*You are invited to come forward to receive ashes.*

*Pastor will mark your forehead and say,*

*“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

## **Prayer after Imposition of Ashes**

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

L Hear us o God,

**C Your mercy is great.**

L Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**C Amen.**

## MEAL

### The Offering

#### Offering Prayer

P Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

### Words of Institution

#### The Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

### Communion

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

## Communion Song: "Lamb of God"

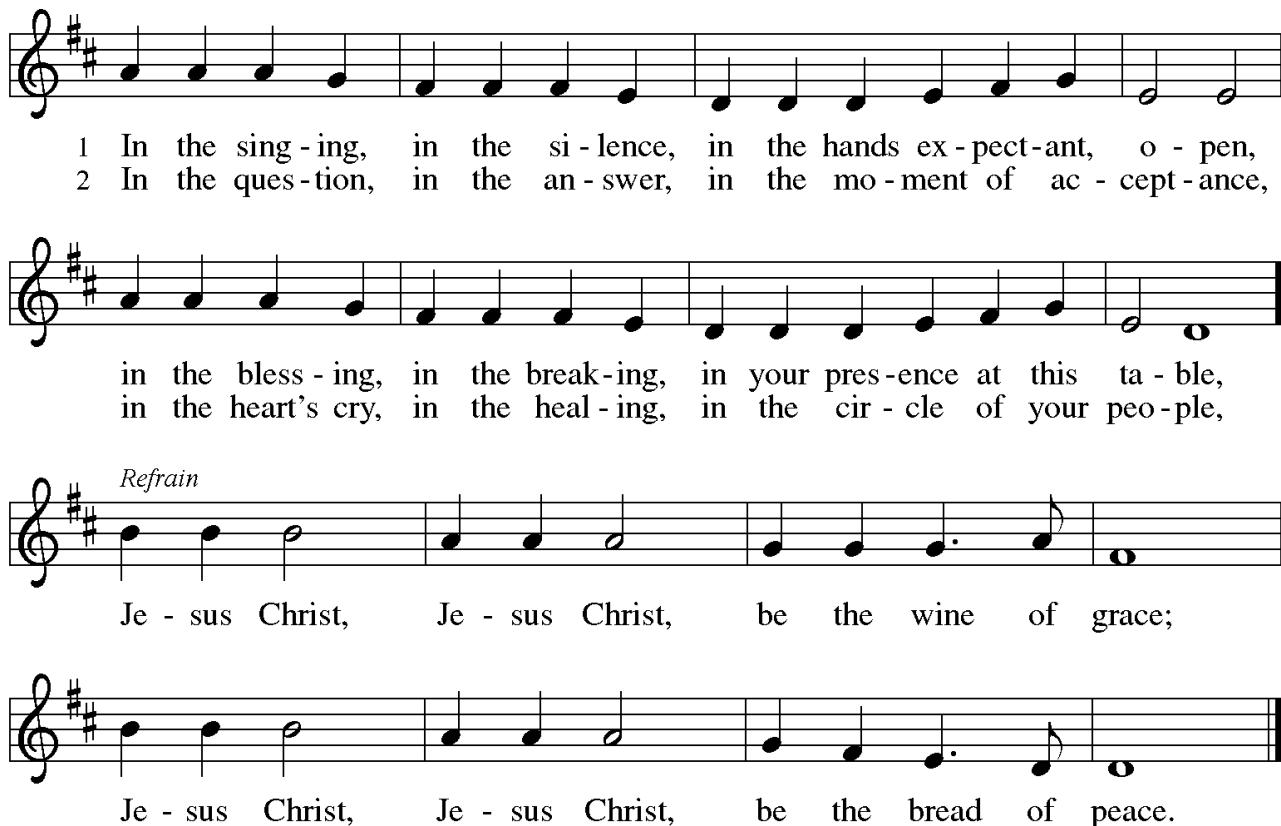
ACS Setting 12



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Song: "In the Singing"

ELW 466



1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o-pen,  
2 In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac-cept-ance,  
  
in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing, in the cir-cle of your peo-ple,  
  
*Refrain*  
Je-sus Christ, Je-sus Christ, be the wine of grace;  
Je-sus Christ, Je-sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

## Communion Song: “In This Feast of Love”

ACS 962

1 In this feast of love, in this  
2 In this bread and wine, in in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

feast of love, Lord, you share your  
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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## Table Blessing

*please stand as you are able*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you always in God’s grace.

C Amen

## Prayer after Communion

P Let us pray.

C Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Blessing

P God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## Sending Song: "Be Thou My Vision"

ELW 793

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.