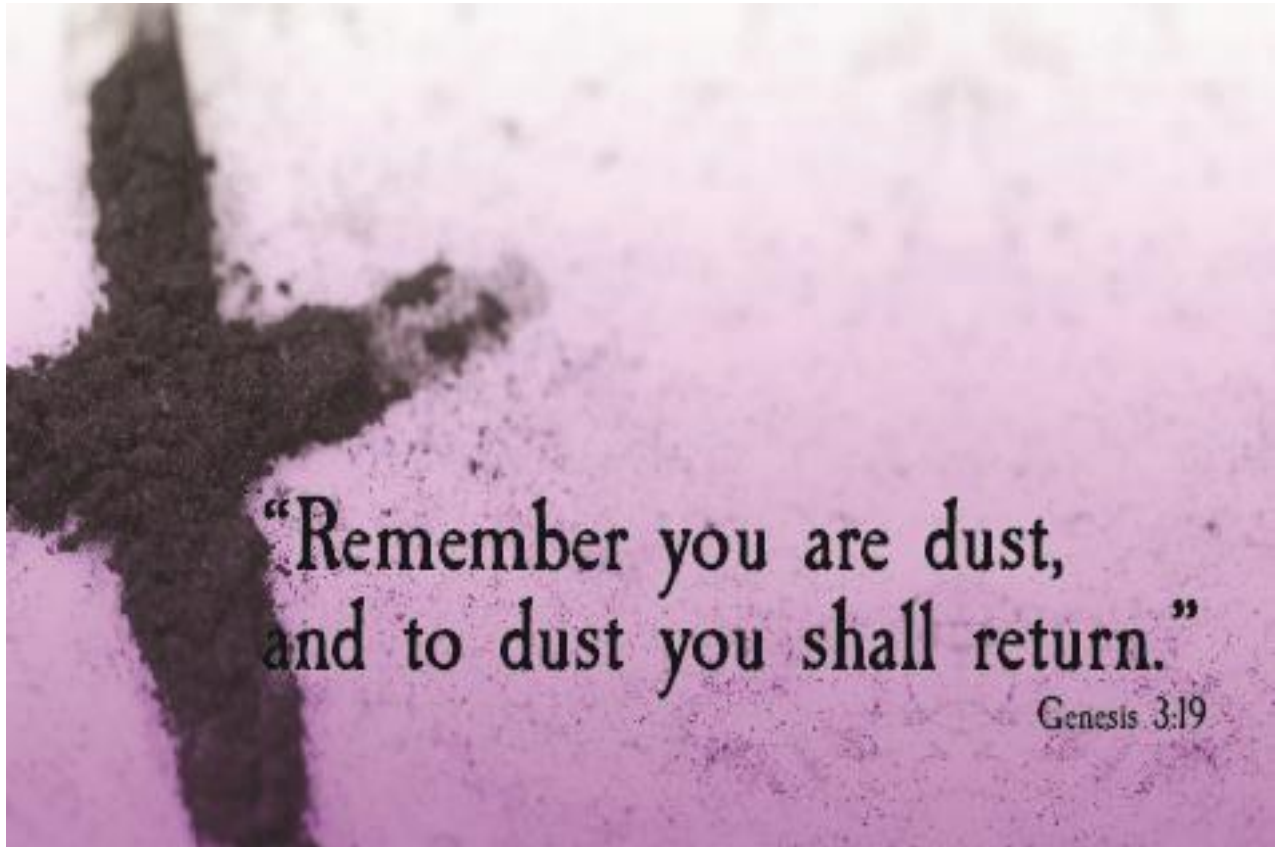


**Ash Wednesday**  
February 14, 2024  
Noon & 6:45 p.m. Livestream at 6:45 p.m.



**FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY**  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor  
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

*Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Joyfully. Serve Christ Faithfully.*

✦ **GATHERING** ✦

**Prelude**

*Erbarm' Dich Mein, O Herre Gott*

J.L. Krebs

(student of J.S. Bach)

**Psalm 51**

*The Psalm is read responsively.*

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

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

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

**C** **<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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**C** **<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.**

**P** *Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God,*

**C** **you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ✦ THE WORD ✦

### First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**L** *A reading from Joel. <sup>1</sup>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—<sup>2</sup>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.*

*<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Who 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?*

*<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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.*

*<sup>17</sup>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?' "*

**L** *The word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

**L** *A reading from second Corinthians. <sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

**L** *The word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able.*



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.

## Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**P** *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the sixth chapter.*

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

*[Jesus said to the disciples:]* <sup>1</sup>“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.

<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 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. <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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Alejandro Mejía

*Please rise, as you are able.*

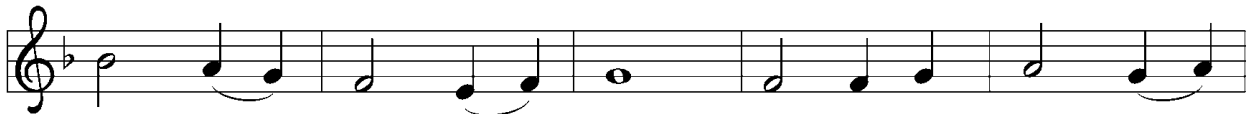
**Hymn of the Day**

*When I Survey the Wonderful Cross*

No. 803



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

*Please be seated.*

**P** *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.*

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

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

**P** *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.**

**P** *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.**

**P** *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.**

**P** *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.**

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

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

**P** *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.**

**P** *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.**

**P** *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.**

**P** *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.**

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

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

## Offering & Offertory

### *This is the Time of Fulfilment*

6:45 Chancel Choir

*As the gifts are presented, please stand, as you are able.*



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

- A** *Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.*
- C** **Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

*The ashes are blessed with these words:*

- P** *Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of 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.*
- C** **Amen.**

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward and kneel or stand at the communion rail.

The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The following is sung during the imposition:

*Savior, When in Dust to You*

No. 601



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

After all have received ashes and returned to their places, all stand and continue:

**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.**

**A** *Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.*

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** *Hear us, O God.*

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** *Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

**C** **Amen.**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

*After sharing the peace, please remain standing.*

## ✦ **THE EUCHARIST** ✦

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:*

**C** **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**P** *Blessed are you, O God of the universe....*

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

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** *O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.*

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** *Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.*

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** *With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**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.**

**P** *Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

*We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.)*

*During the distribution, the following is sung:*



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 Music**

*Third Prelude: L'art de toucher le clavecin*

F. Couperin

*Just As I Am, without One Plea*

No. 592



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.

*Abide with Me*

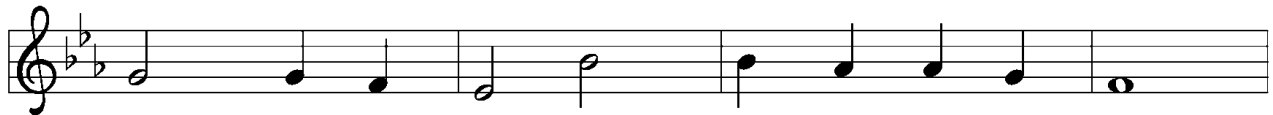
No. 629



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

*After all have communed, please rise, as you are able.*

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C** **Amen.**



**A** *Let us pray. Generous God,*  
**C** **at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

✦ **SENDING** ✦

**P** *Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.*  
**C** **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision*

No. 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.

**A** *Go in peace. Share your bread.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Warum Betrübst Du Dich, Mein Herz*

J.C. Bach (uncle of J.S.Bach)

**Pray for Those That Need God's Healing**

*Ray, Paul, Donald, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion,  
Betty, Theresa, Linda, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean,  
Nicholas, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*



**Lenten Series**

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**6:45pm**

**FEB 21, 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SERVING TODAY

### Noon

### 6:45 p.m.

Greeters

Assisting Minister

Janet DeVinney

Teri King

Communion Assistants

Tina Zimmerman

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Acolyte

Livestream

Joel Raedeke