

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

## Invitation to a Holy Lent

The forty days of Lent serve as a time for Christians to return to the Sacred Presence, to the God who has never left us, even though at times we have been far away. Lent is a time to renew classic disciplines of prayer, study, and reflection, as well as ancient practices such as fasting and Bible study. All of this is designed to renew a right spirit within us and to prepare us for the events of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter.

Lent always begins with a day of special devotion and discipline known as "Ash Wednesday." The traditional worship for this day is especially powerful and calls for the "imposition of ashes." All are invited to come forward to receive the imprint of ashes on your forehead, as a sign of your mortality. In this stark way, we are put in mind of the difference between those things that are passing away and those things that endure forever.

All are welcome to receive Communion. Please do not worry about "doing it right." The important thing is simply that you know that God welcomes you, and there is no telling how God might reach you in Communion. Just be open.

We are glad that you worshipped with us today. Each weekend we offer several different services of worship: Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 8:00 (Rite One), 9:00 (two services), and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 (Celtic) and 8:00 p.m. (Compline). Each service has its own character, and you can find out more about each of them on our website. We hope you will visit, experiment, and find the services that feel most worshipful to you. Whatever you decide, know that you are always welcome here.

You are always welcome here.

Gary D. Jones, *Rector*

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## Ash Wednesday ☿ March 6, 2019

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**7:30 a.m., Noon & 5:30 p.m.**

*In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer,  
we ask that silence be observed upon entering the church.*

<b>Prelude</b>	Chorale Prelude on <i>O Mankind, Bewail Thy Great Sins</i> (7:30 a.m.)	J.S. Bach
	Chorale Prelude on <i>When in the hour of utmost need</i> (noon, 5:30 p.m.)	J.S. Bach

*All stand at the bell, for the silent procession (noon, 5:30 p.m.)*

### The Collect of the Day

The Book of Common Prayer, page 264

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

*Please kneel. A period of silence is observed.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Old Testament Lesson** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *Please sit.*

**Reader** A reading from the Book of Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 103: 8–14**

*Read responsively by half verse.*

Prayer Book, page 733

- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
**so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
**he remembers that we are but dust.**

**The New Testament Lesson** 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

**Reader** A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

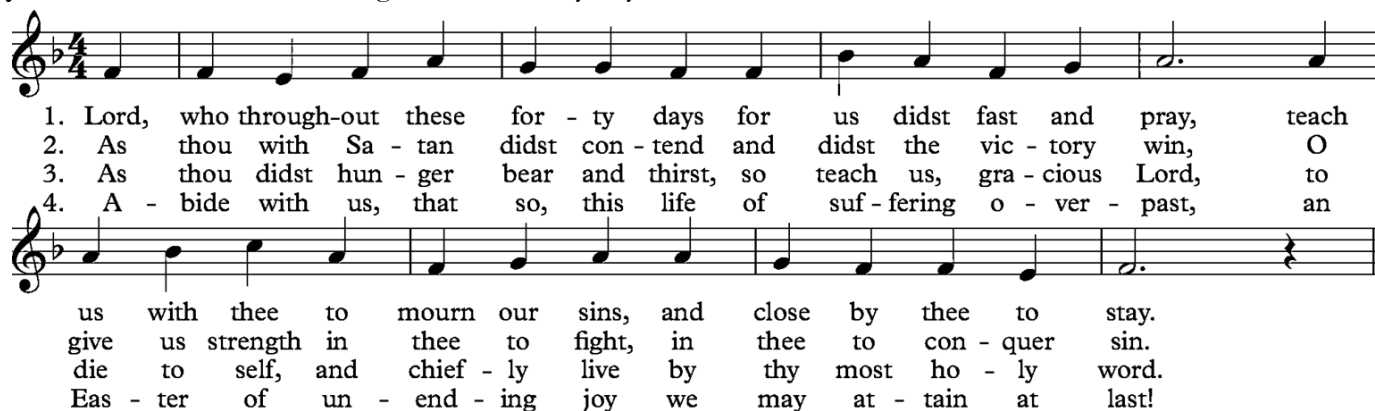
As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray, teach  
 2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend and didst the vic - tory win, O  
 3. As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord, to  
 4. A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past, an  
 us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
 give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
 die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

**The Gospel Lesson** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *Please stand.**Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*People* **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.****Homily** The Rev. Gary D. Jones *Please sit.***The Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent** *All stand.* Prayer Book, page 264

**Celebrant** Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

**Celebrant** Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*All who wish to receive ashes may come forward to the main altar or side altars.*

*The ashes are imposed with the following words:*

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

**Psalm 51**

*Said in unison, kneeling.*

Prayer Book, page 266

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O LORD, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Most holy and merciful Father: **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**Celebrant** 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.

**People** **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**Celebrant** We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**People** **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**Celebrant** We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**People** **We confess to you, Lord.**

**Celebrant** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**People** **We confess to you, Lord.**

**Celebrant** Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People** **We confess to you, Lord.**

**Celebrant** Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**People** **We confess to you, Lord.**

**Celebrant** Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**People** **We confess to you, Lord.**

**Celebrant** Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People** **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

**Celebrant** For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**People** **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

**Celebrant** For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**People** **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

**Celebrant** Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**People** **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

**Celebrant** Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

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

**Celebrant** By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

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

*The Celebrant facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Please stand.*

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

**People** **And also with you.**

*Then the ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please be seated for the Offertory.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**At the Offertory**    *Almighty and Everlasting God*    *Sung by the choir (noon, 5:30 services)*

Orlando Gibbons

**The Presentation**    *Please stand.*

**Celebrant**    All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People**    **And of thine own have we given thee.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**    Eucharistic Prayer A

Prayer Book, page 361

*The people remain standing.*

**Celebrant**    The Lord be with you.

**People**    **And also with you.**

**Celebrant**    Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**People**    **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Celebrant**    It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is said.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

*Sung by all (noon, 5:30 p.m.)*

Hymnal S124, David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Please kneel.*

**Celebrant**    Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Celebrant and People**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Celebrant** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Celebrant and People**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

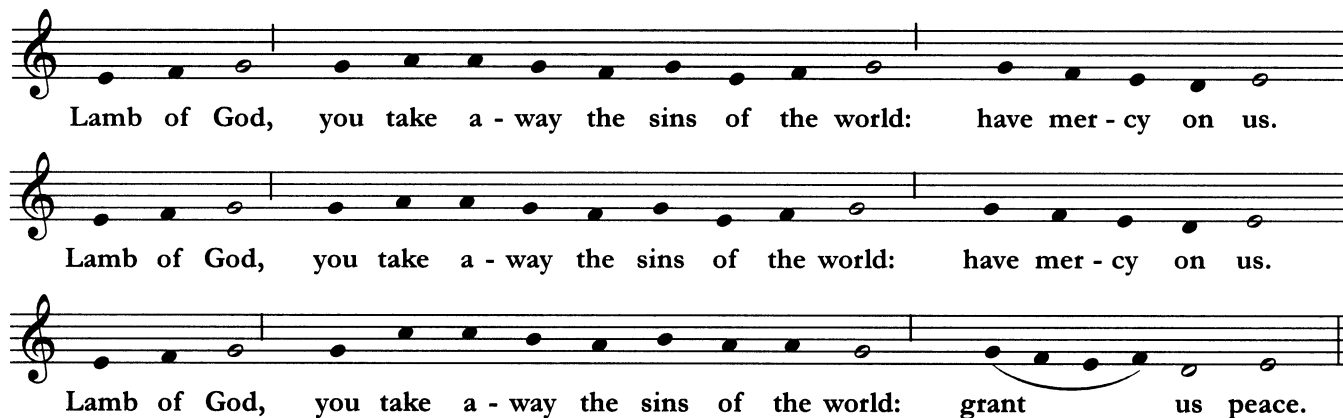
*Silence is kept.*

Prayer Book, page 364

**Fraction Anthem**

*Sung by all (noon, 5:30 p.m.)*

Hymnal S161, David Hurd



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

**Celebrant** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**At the Communion of the People**

*All are welcome to receive the Sacrament at the main altar or side altars (main altar only at 7:30 a.m.). When you are given the consecrated bread, you may consume it and then drink the wine from the first or larger chalice. If you wish, you may "intinct" or touch the tip of your bread to the wine. For this, a smaller cup will be presented, shortly after the larger chalice comes by. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. We offer gluten-free wafers. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister.*

**Motet**

*Hide Not Thou Thy Face From Us, O Lord*

*Sung by the choir (noon, 5:30 p.m.)*

Richard Farrant

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer Book, page 366

**Celebrant** Let us pray. *Please kneel.*

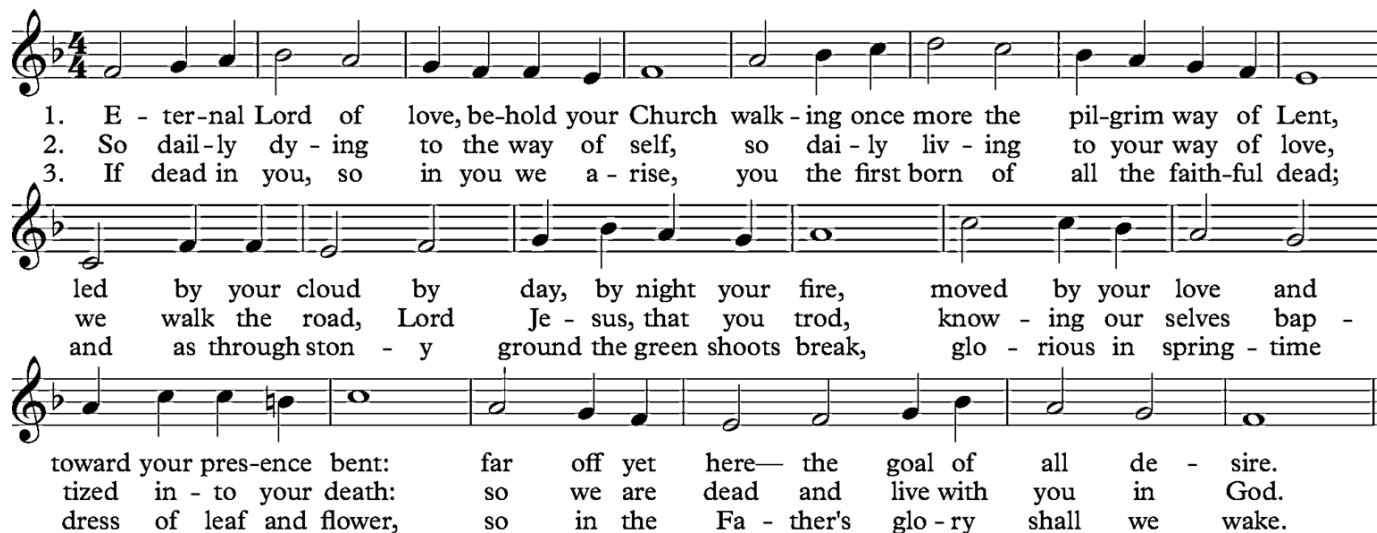
**Celebrant** Almighty and everliving God,  
**All** we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Solemn Prayer

**Celebrant** Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 149 Eternal Lord of love Sung by all, standing.

Old 124th



1. E - ter-nal Lord of love, be-hold your Church walk - ing once more the pil-grim way of Lent,  
2. So dail-ly dy - ing to the way of self, so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,  
3. If dead in you, so in you we a - rise, you the first born of all the faith-ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire, moved by your love and  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod, know - ing our selves bap -  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break, glo - rious in spring - time

toward your pres-ence bent: far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
tized in - to your death: so we are dead and live with you in God.  
dress of leaf and flower, so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

The Dismissal

**Deacon** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People** Thanks be to God.

*In order to allow for private prayer following the service, please exit quietly.*



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