



For you  
are dust,  
And  
to dust  
you shall return.  
Genesis 3:19, NASB

# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

*Our Savior Lutheran*

5000 W. Tidwell, Houston, TX 77091 • 713-290-9087 • [www.OSL.cc](http://www.OSL.cc)

*Dr Laurence White, Senior Pastor • Rev Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor  
Jeff Armstrong, Minister of Music*

## *Ash Wednesday Worship Note:*

The first day of Lent is called "Ash Wednesday" in all Christian countries of the Western world from the historic ceremony of imposing blessed ashes in the form of the cross on the foreheads of the faithful. In the ancient tradition the pastor pronounces the words of Genesis 3:19 as he places the ashes on the penitent's forehead. "Memento homo quia pulvis es et in pulverem reverteris." (Remember, man, that thou art dust and to dust shalt thou return.) The ashes used are obtained from the burning of the blessed palms from the previous Palm Sunday. The designation of this holy day as "Ash Wednesday" dates from the 10th century. Ash Wednesday is a day of solemn confession when the congregation laments the sins of God's people and makes a commitment to observe the Lenten season as a time of repentance and prayer in preparation for the joyous celebration of the Lord's resurrection. The ashes of this somber observance are a reminder of our human frailty and mortality and a sign of our repentance, sorrow, and need for grace. "Memento, homo, quia pulvis es." Those who wish to participate in this time-honored ceremony this evening may come forward during the Imposition of Ashes.

## *Order of Divine Service*

*In Nomine Jesu*



*Music for Meditation & Prayer*

### *Call To Worship*

*(Stand and face the processional cross)*

**Domine Deus**

*Taize Chant: Lord God, Son of the Father, have mercy on us.*

**Carillon Ringers & Jubilate Choir**

*Domine Deus, Filius Patris, miserere nobis. Domine Deus, Filius Patris, miserere nobis.*

*Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord.*

*Lord, hear my voice! O let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.*

*Domine Deus, Filius Patris, miserere nobis. Domine Deus, Filius Patris, miserere nobis.*

(Be Seated)

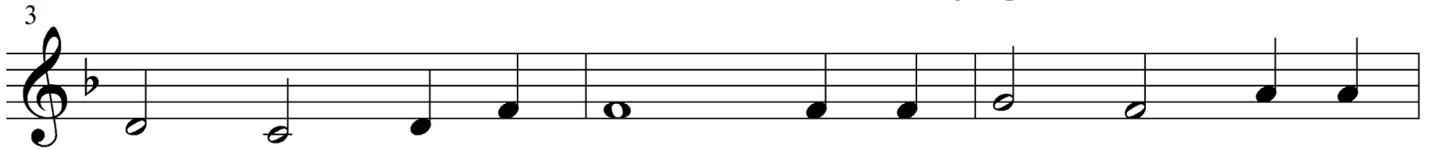
## Opening Hymn

# Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

Text: L. White; Tune: "Beach Spring"; Te Deum #297 © 2016 OSL



1. Sun - day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -  
2. Like our par - ents in the Gar - den, we are  
3. We have failed to serve God on - ly, His com -  
4. Dust and ash - es are God's judge - ment on our



oth - er Lent be - gins. Here we kneel be - fore our  
cursed by death and sin; Sa - tan's false - hoods have be -  
mand - ments to o - bey; We have failed to love our  
doomed and fal - len race; Those who hailed Christ as Mes -



Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal  
guiled us, e - vil reigns sup - reme with - in. The Des - cend - ant of the  
neigh - bors in a hum - ble Christ - like way. We are jeal - ous, proud, im -  
si - ah, soon would spit up - on His face. An - gry mobs would mock and



pled - ges, in re - bel - lion gone as - tray; In con -  
wom - an came to crush the Ser - pent's head; Shed His  
pa - tient, lov - ing o - ver - much our things; May re -  
jeer Him, Hail Bar - ab - bas as their king; Raise us



tri - tion seek for - give - ness, grant us par - don, Lord, this day.  
blood to pay our ran - som on the cross died in our stead.  
pent - ance for our fail - ings be our Lent - en of - fer - ings.  
up from dust and ash - es, lift our voice Christ's praise to sing.



*“Law and Gospel, Damnation and Salvation” by Lucas Cranach the Elder*

*(Stand)*

### *Invocation*

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

**C** *Amen.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** *And with thy spirit.*

**P** Let us pray:

O Almighty and Eternal God, spare those who come before You this night in heartfelt penitence and prayer. You desire not the death of sinners but rather that they might turn from their wicked ways and live. Mindful of the weakness of our human nature, bless these ashes as a sign of our humility. Enable each of us to recognize that we are but dust, and for the penalty of our guilt must return to the dust again. By the death of our Lord Jesus Christ pardon our sins and restore us to life again. In the Name of Jesus.

**C** *Amen.*

*(Be Seated)*

### *The Imposition of Ashes*

*(Those who desire to receive ashes come forward to the altar. The minister will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the confession of sin.)*

# Ministry of Music

## Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Carillon Ringers

(Stand/Kneel)

### Confession of Sin

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** *Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

### Hymn of Confession

#### Not All the Blood of Beasts

Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: William Daman – “Southwell”; LSB #431 © 2006 CPH



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - jice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

# Absolution

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** *Amen.*

*(Be Seated)*

## Office Hymn

### Remember, Man, That Thou Art Dust

*Text: L. White; Tune: Martin Luther – "Vater Unser"; Te Deum #272 © 2016 OSL*



1. Re - mem - ber, man, that thou art dust; The Jud - ge's ver - dict  
2. Our fath - er A - dam from the clay Was formed by God's own  
3. Cast out from E - den's Tree of Life, Man spends his time in  
4. In dust and ash - es now re - pent, Be - gin these ho - ly  
5. In Je - sus' blood there yet is life, With Christ we con - quer



fair and just. To dust shalt thou re - turn a - gain, Be -  
hand that day. And in - to life - less dust God breathed So  
trial and strife. The reap - er poised to swing his scythe, All  
days of Lent. Up - on your fore - head bear the mark, Death's  
in this strife, Our Lord has van - quished death and sin For



neath trans - gres - sion's fa - tal reign. Sin's dead - ly wa - ges must be  
man the gift of life re - ceived. But life was cast a - side in  
men have sinned so all must die. From birth and life's first fra - gile  
an - cient sym - bol crude and dark. Con - fess your sin and hum - bly  
He has died that we may win. The ash - es form the cross - 's



paid, A fate no man shall ere e - vade.  
sin Grim death for all did thus be - gin.  
breath, We flee the i - cy hand of death.  
pray that Christ may come to you this day.  
sign, And in that cross new life is mine.

## Scripture Readings

Genesis 3:1-21

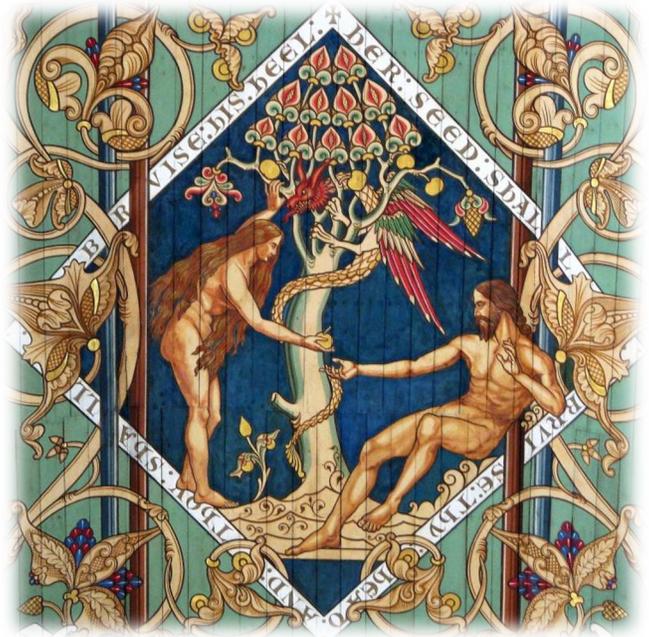
[1] Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” [2] And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” [4] But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

[6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. [8] And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” [10] And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” [11] He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” [12] The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” [13] Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

[14] The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15] I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

[16] To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

[17] And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” [20] The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. [21] And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.



**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 51

[1] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

[2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

[3] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

[4] Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

[5] Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

[6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

[7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

[8] Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

[9] Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

[10] Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

[11] Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

[12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

[13] Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

[14] Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

[15] O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

[16] For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

[17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

[18] Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;

[19] then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings  
and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

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



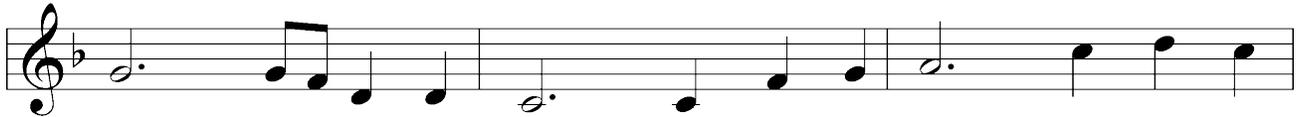
# *Sermon Hymn*

## The Tree of Life

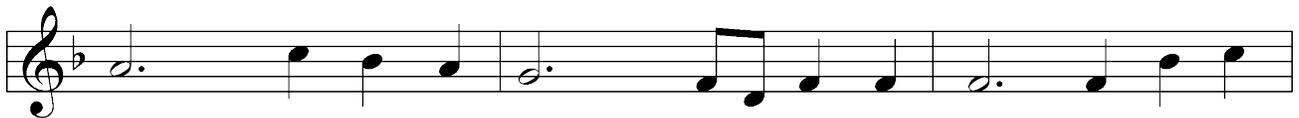
*Text: Stephen P. Starke; Tune: Bruce W. Becker – “Tree of Life”; LSB #561 © 2006 CPH*



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



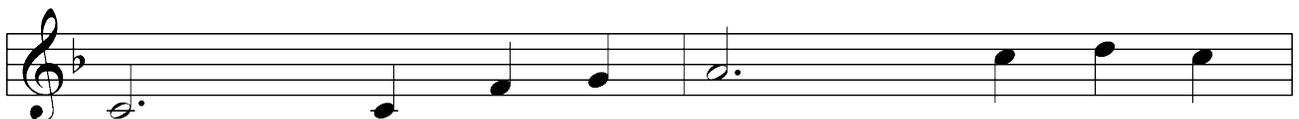
ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a  
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would  
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
 eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005129  
 Tune: © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005129

*(Stand for the reading of the text)*

*Sermon*

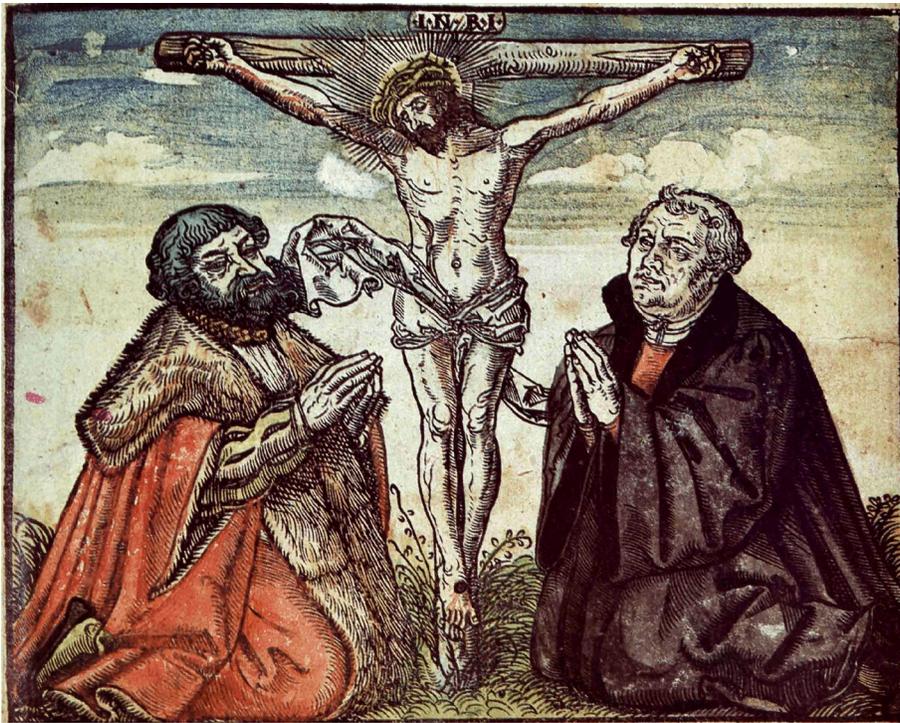
Text: Psalm 51

“Have Mercy on Me”

*(Stand)*

*Notum*

*Offering Prayer*



*(Be Seated)*

*Offering*

*Voluntary*

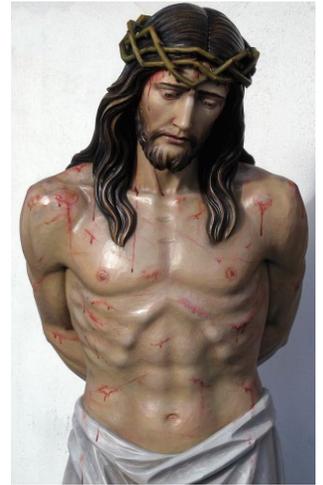
What Wondrous Love Is This

*By C. Kampus*

# *Service of Holy Communion*

(Stand)

## *The Great Thanksgiving*



**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** *Amen.*

## *Words of Institution*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** *Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

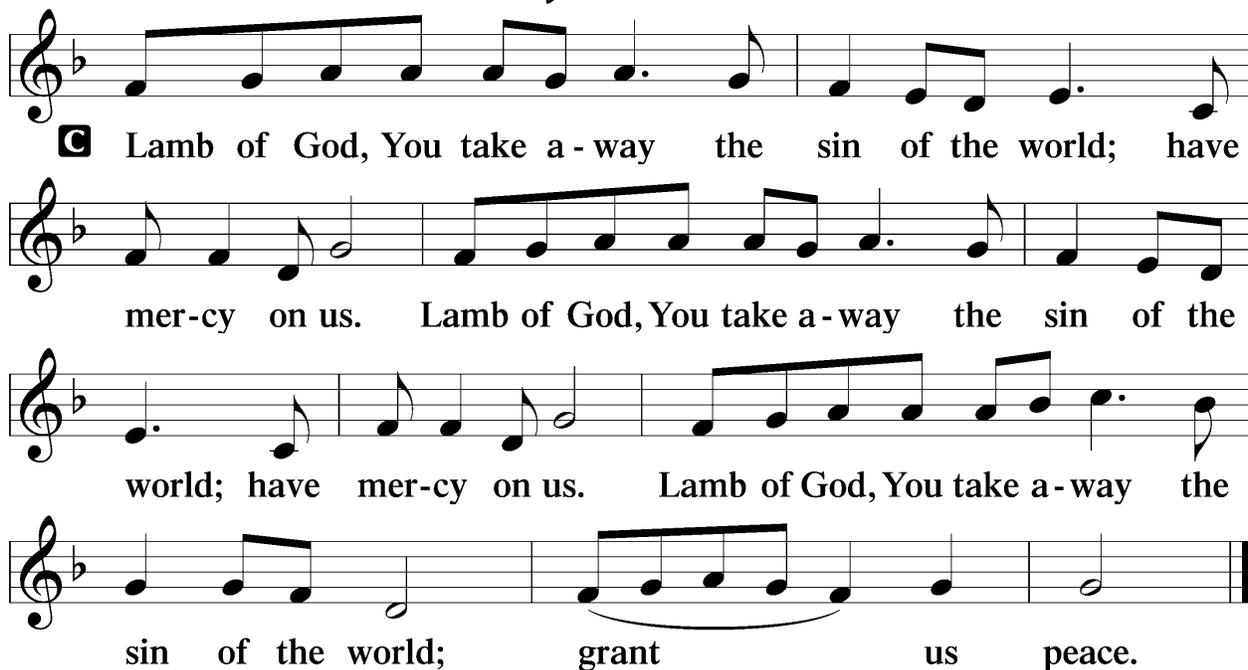
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.*

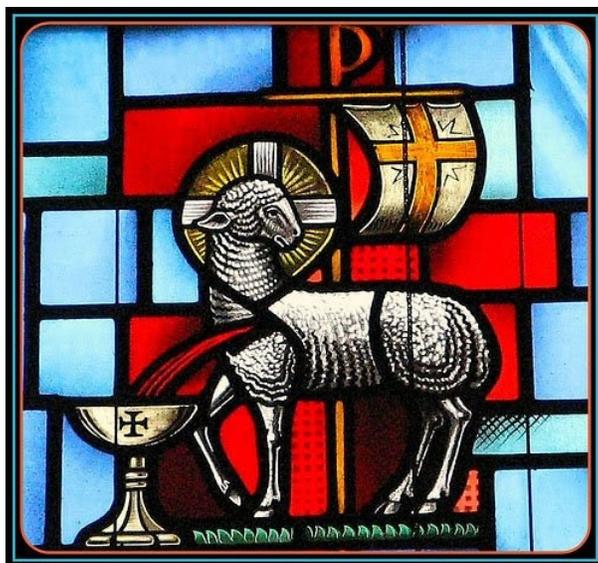
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

## *Agnus Dei*



**C** 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.



*(Be Seated)*

## *Distribution*

*(This congregation observes the Biblical practice of "Closed Communion." If you have not communed with us previously and have not had the opportunity to speak with our Pastor about communion attendance, we respectfully request that you refrain from participating in the Sacrament this evening. Thank you for your kindness.)*

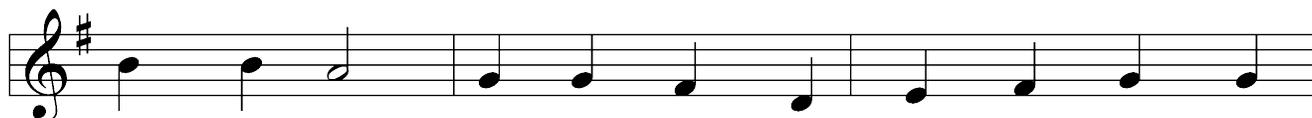
# Distribution Hymns

## Christ, the Life of All the Living

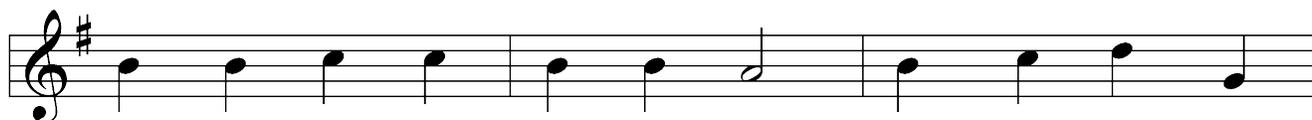
Text: Ernst Homburg; Tune: "Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben"; LSB #420 sts.1-5 © 2006 CPH



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with  
5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.  
might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou  
Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.  
soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

# Ministry of Music

## Just Beyond the Manger

By Joseph M. Martin © 1997, Malcolm Music

Jubilate Choir

*Just beyond the manger, I hear no lullabies, I see no golden hay, I feel no starlight.*

*Just beyond the manger, I hear the hammer fall, I see a rugged cross, I feel the chill of night.*

*Just beyond the manger.*

*Just beyond the manger, I see no swaddling clothes, I hear no angels sing, I feel no candle glow.*

*Just beyond the manger, I see a lonely hill, the Savior crying still, I hear the thunder roll.*

*Just beyond the manger.*

*Forgive us, Lord, and grant us eyes to see in ev'ry Christmas, Calvary; implant it in our hearts.*

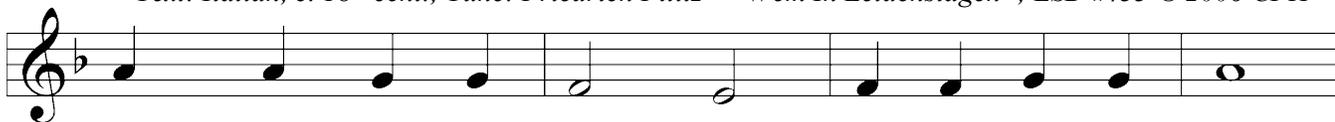
*Help us recall 'mid trees of red and gold, on another tree raised long ago we hung God's brightest star.*

*Just beyond the manger, just beyond the manger, just beyond the manger,*

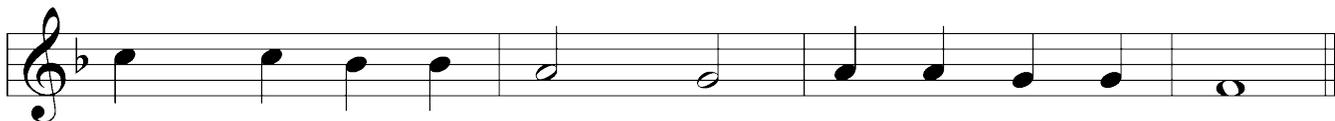
*I hear no lullabies, just beyond the manger.*

## Glory Be to Jesus

Text: Italian, c. 18<sup>th</sup> cent.; Tune: Friedrich Filitz – "Wem In Leidenstagen"; LSB #433 © 2006 CPH



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Public domain

(Stand)

## Post-Communion Canticle

### Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus; Tune: Carl F. Schalk – “Fortunatus New”; LSB #454 sts. 1, 5 © 2006 CPH



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing  
5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,  
and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the  
Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.  
in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

Public domain

© 1967 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 110005129.

## Benedicamus — Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

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

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

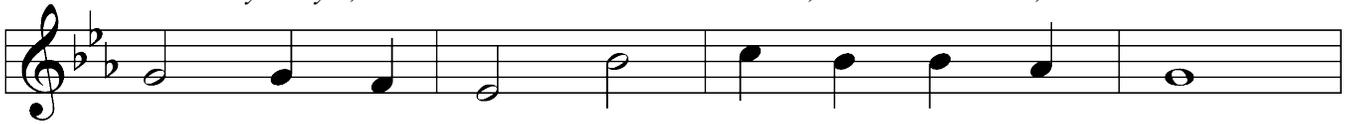
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** *Amen.*

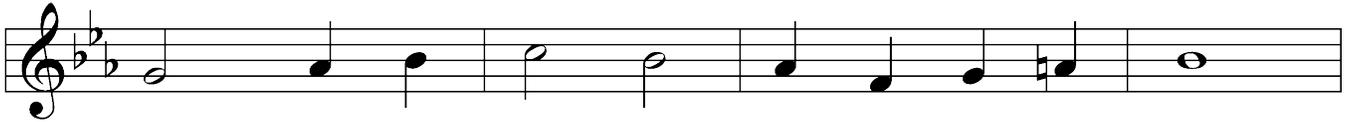
# *Closing Hymn*

## Abide with Me

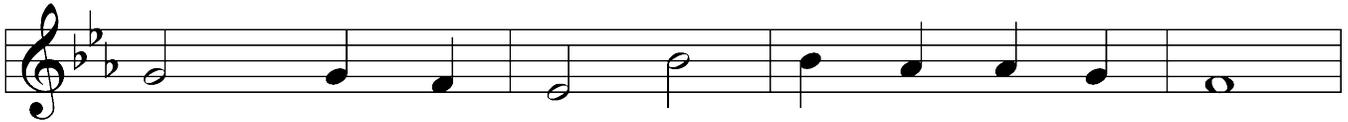
Text: Henry F. Lyte; Tune: William H. Monk – “Eventide”; LSB #878 sts. 1–4, 6 © 2006 CPH



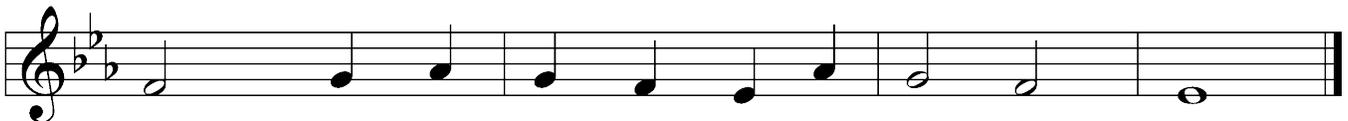
1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.  
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

## *Chimes & Silent Prayer*

*(Please remain standing while the acolytes extinguish the altar candles)*

### **Acknowledgments:**

Scripture quotation is from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.