

St Mary's



Ash Wednesday

14th February 2024



8.30 am Eucharist.
12.30 pm Eucharist
7.00 pm Eucharist

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

A bell rings as a signal for all to stand silently as the service begins

Sisters and brothers in Christ, from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting. At first this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord. So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

All sit

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel 2:1-2; 2:12-17

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?”’

At the end Hear the word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 51:1-18

Response:



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Response

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your
sight,

Response

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and steadfast spirit
within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take
your holy spirit from me.

Response

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing
spirit.
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Response

Plainsong New – Geoffrey Cox Antiphon 1 Psalm 51.

A reading from Pauls' second letter to the Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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.

Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

At the end Hear the word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

All stand

HYMN 211 (I)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves have a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The third staff has a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The fourth staff has a melody of quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, F, A7, Dm, A7, Dm, A, Dm, F, A7, Dm, Bb, C, F, C7, F, Dm, Am, F, Bb, F, Dm, A, Dm, F, A7, Dm.

- 1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy refuge fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.**
- 2. Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me:
all my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

3. **Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find,
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.**

4. **Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.



Praise - and hon-our to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘Beware of practising 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.

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

At the end This is the gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All sit

Reflection *Fr Jan Joustra*

THE ACT OF PENITENCE

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

The ashes are placed on the altar, and the priest says

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.

BLESSING OF ASHES

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Come, receive the sign of ashes.

The ashes are placed on each person's forehead with the words

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

HYMN 173



- 1. We rise again from ashes,
from the good we've failed to do.
We rise again from ashes,
to create ourselves anew.
If all our world is ashes,
then must our lives be true,
An offering of ashes,
An offering to You.**

- 2. We offer You our failures,
we offer You attempts;
The gifts not fully given,
the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction,
give our visions wider view,
An offering of ashes,
An offering to You.**

- 3. Then rise again from ashes,
let healing come to pain;
Though spring has turned to winter,
and sunshine turned to rain.
The rain we'll use for growing,
and create the world anew,
From an offering of ashes,
An offering to You.**

**4. Thanks be to the Father,
who made us like Himself.
Thanks be to His Son,
who saved us by His death.
Thanks be to the Spirit,
who creates the world anew,
From an offering of ashes,
An offering to You.**

Tony Conry 1978, OCP Publications. Used with permission.

After all have returned to their places, the celebrant leads the litany.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,
have mercy on us.

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,
have mercy on us.

For turning away from your presence,
for disobeying your word and commandments,
forgive us, Lord.

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours,
for betraying your trust and the trust of others,
forgive us, Lord.

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings,
for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,
forgive us, Lord.

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures,
for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,
forgive us, Lord.

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven.
for judging others and bearing grudges,
forgive us, Lord.

For skimping on our commitments and relationships,
for failing in hospitality,

forgive us, Lord.

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong,
for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,

forgive us, Lord.

For turning away when others have offered us love,
for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,

forgive us, Lord.

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly,
for our careless speech and hurtful words,

forgive us, Lord.

Most merciful God,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With our hearts turned to God in repentance, with the knowledge of our sins laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ, in the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven. Receive God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness, and, in the power of the Holy Spirit. walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

All stand

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A collection is taken during the hymn

HYMN 434

Response
Gtr. Capo 1 Fm(Em) Bb7(A7) Eb(D) Cm(Bm) Eb(D)

Where there is cha - ri - ty and love, there the God of
 love a - bides. - bides.

Ab(G) Bb7(A7) Eb(D) 1st and last times Before verses Eb(D) Verses

Bb(A) Eb(D) Cm(Bm) Bb(A) Eb(D)

Eb(D) Bb(A) Eb(D) Bb(A) Fm(Em)

Fm(Em) Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb(A) Cm(Bm)

Gm(F#m) Ab(G) Fm(Em) Eb(D)

Response:

*Where there is charity and love,
 there the God of love abides.*

1. **The love of Christ has gathered us as one:
 rejoice in him with joy which he imparts;
 let us revere and love the living God,
 and love each other with unfeigning hearts.**

**2. And so, when we are gathered here as one,
let quarrels die, and envious rancour cease;
be our resolve all bitterness to shun,
and in our midst be Christ, his love and peace.**

**3. O lead us, Master, by your saving grace,
to where the blessed glory in your sight;
there let us see and love you, face to face,
gathered once more in everlasting light.**

From the Office of the Mandatum paraphrased by Richard Connolly 1927–

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.







Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

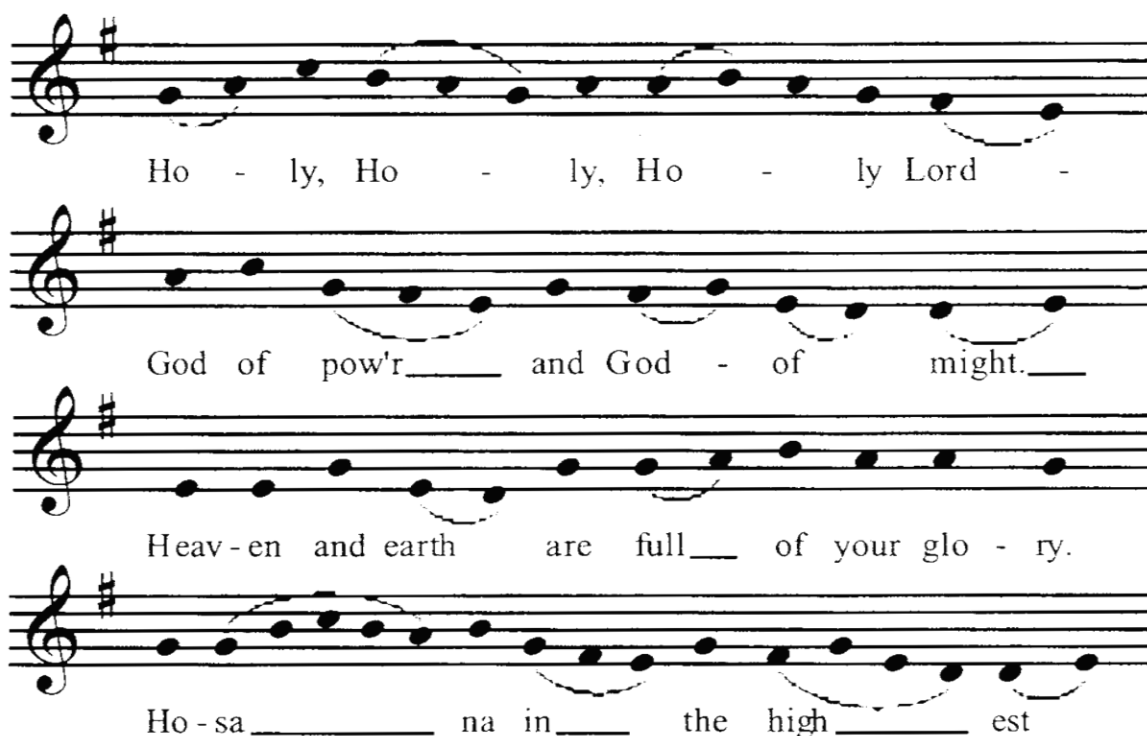
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sursum Corda

<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And also with you.</p>
<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God, We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us. He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

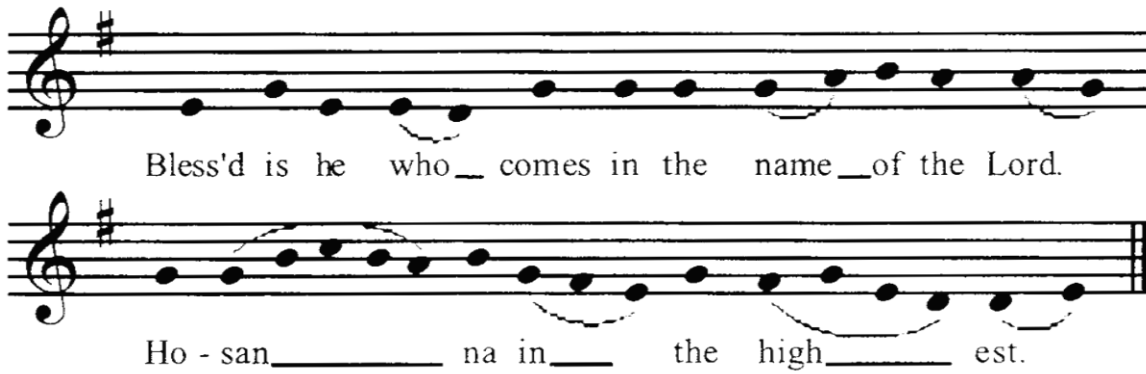


Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord -

God of pow'r and God - of might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - sa - na in the high - est

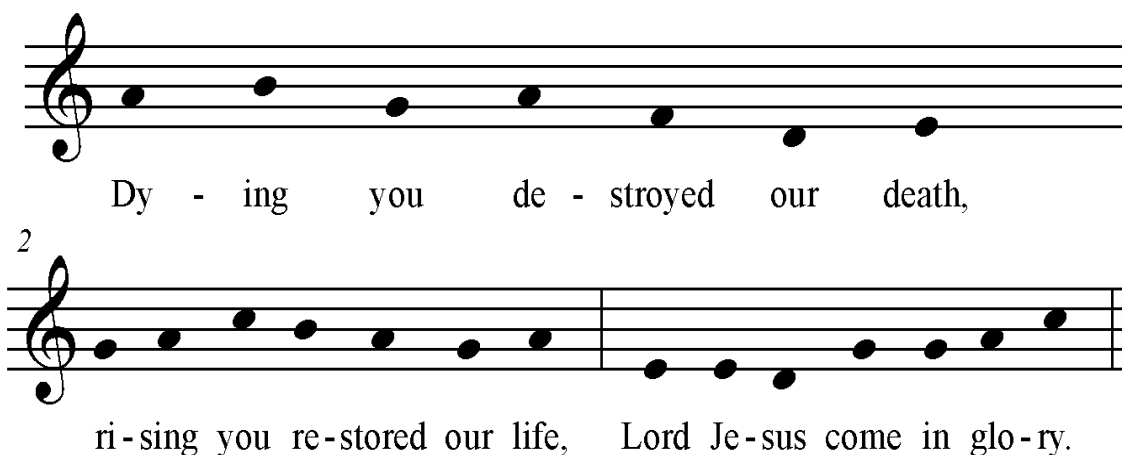


Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

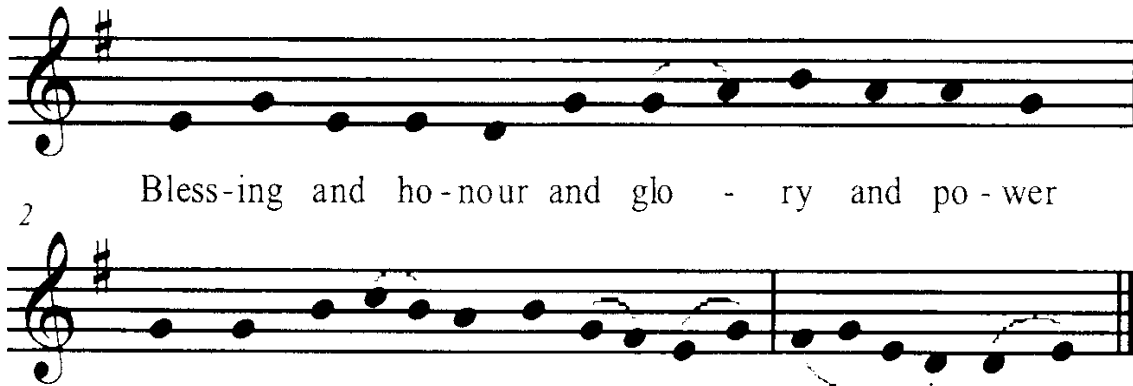
After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming

again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

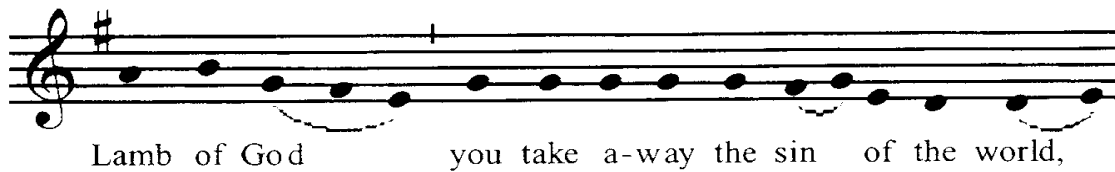


2 Bless-ing and ho-nour and glo - ry and po - wer
are yours for e - ver and e - ver A - men.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

We who are many are one body:
For we all share in the one bread.



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 your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

ANTHEM

After the distribution of communion, all stand

Let us pray.

God of mercy, may we who have shared in this holy meal know your forgiveness in our lives, bring your reconciliation to others, and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world. **Amen**

Father,

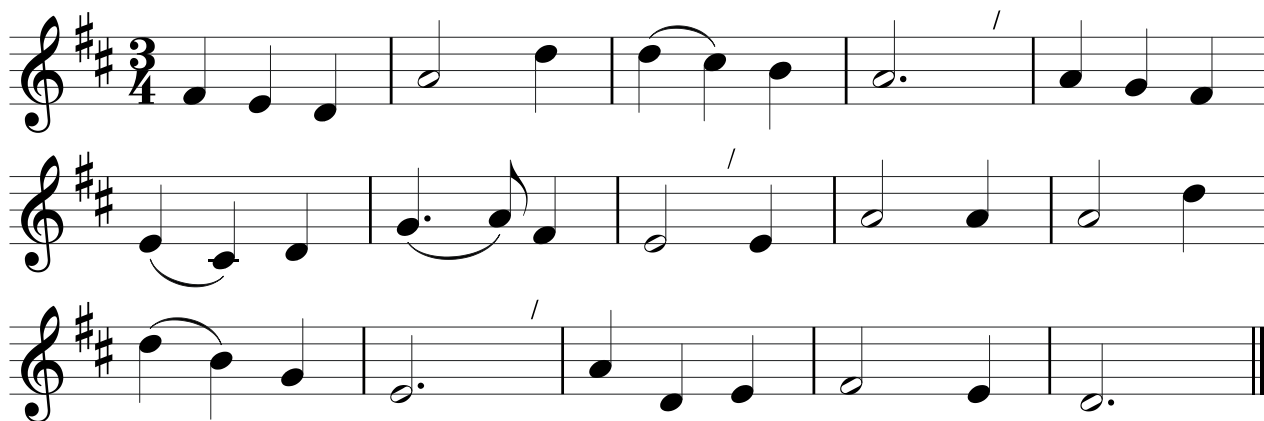
we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices may be given.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand

HYMN 584 (I)



1. **Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you would my Saviour be,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

2. **Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

3. **Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind —
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yes, all I need, in you to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

4. **Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**5. Just as I am — your love unknown
has broken every barrier down —
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**6. Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Charlotte Elliott 1789–1871 alt.

The celebrant leads the final prayers

Father of all we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

God of life and death, from the fullness of yourself you have created all that is; through the power of your love you call us towards you; in the giving of your Son our salvation has been wrought. Our flowering and our passing, all the seasons of the vine, belong to you. Bless us now and in all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE