



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

# ASH WEDNESDAY



7PM HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**Officiant**  
**People**

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
***His Mercy endureth forever.***

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.**

### FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 58:1-12*

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

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

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

**Reader  
People**

The Word of the Lord  
***Thanks be to God***

## **THE RESPONSE**

Psalm 103:8-14

*Benedic, anima mea*

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 EPISTLE**

*2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10*

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  
People**

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### SEQUENCE HYMN | 143

The glory of these forty days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
\* 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

The Officiant reads the Gospel, first saying

**Gospeler  
People**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### THE GOSPEL

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

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.”

**Gospeler  
People**

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **MEDITATION**

*The Rev. David R. Williams, Rector Emeritus*

## **INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT**

*BCP 264*

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.*

## **BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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.**

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

- 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.

**LITANY OF PENITENCE**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

***Celebrant and People***

***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 Bishop, if present, or the Priest, stands and, 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**

<b>Officiant</b>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<b>People</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Wash Me Thoroughly

S.S. Wesley

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,  
and forgive me all my sin.  
For I acknowledge my faults,  
and my sin is ever before me.

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine, & money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the altar.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Eucharist Prayer II

BCP 340

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest faces them and sings or says*

<b>Celebrant</b>	The Lord be with you.
<b>People</b>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>

<b>Celebrant</b>	Lift up your hearts.
<b>People</b>	<b>We lift them up unto the Lord.</b>

<b>Celebrant</b>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<b>People</b>	<b>It is meet and right so to do.</b>

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,


## **SANCTUS | S-114**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of



Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -



- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Here may be added*

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

BCP 336

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

#### **Officiant 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**

BCP 337

*The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

**Officiant**  
**People**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

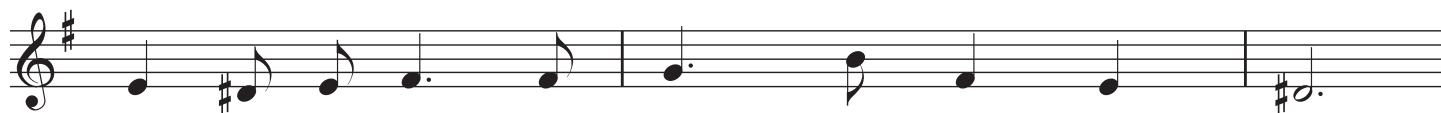
BCP 337

#### **Officiant and People**

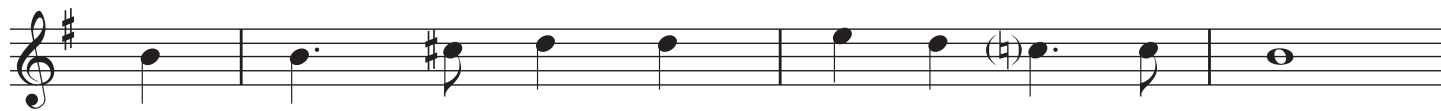
***O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.***

# COMMUNION

140 | Wilt thou forgive the sin



1 Wilt thou for - give that sin, where I be - gun,  
2 Wilt thou for - give that sin, by which I won  
3 I have a sin of fear that when I've spun



which is my sin, though it were done be - fore?  
o - thers to sin, and made my sin their door?  
my last thread, I shall per - ish on the shore;



Wilt thou for - give those sins through which I run,  
Wilt thou for - give that sin which I did shun  
swear by thy - self, that at my death thy Son



and do run still, though still I do de - plore?  
a year or two, but wal - lowed in a score?  
shall shine as he shines now, and here - to - fore.



When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.  
And hav - ing done that, thou hast done, I fear no more.

1 Kind Ma - ker of the world, O hear the fer - vent  
 2 Each heart is man - i - fest to thee; thou know - est  
 3 Spare us, O Lord, who now con - fess our sins and  
 4 Give us the dis - ci - pline that springs from ab - sti -  
 5 Grant, O thou bless - ed Trin - i - ty; grant, O un -

1 prayer, with man - y a tear poured forth by all the  
 2 our in - fir - mi - ty; now we re - pent, and  
 3 all our wick - ed - ness, and, for the glo - ry  
 4 nence in out - ward things with in - ward fast - ing,  
 5 chang - ing Un - i - ty; that this our fast of

1 pen - i - tent who keep this ho - ly fast of Lent!  
 2 seek thy face; grant un - to us thy par - doning grace.  
 3 of thy Name, our weak - ened souls to health re - claim.  
 4 so that we in heart and soul may dwell with thee.  
 5 for - ty days may work our pro - fit and thy praise!

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Bow down before the Lord

The people kneel and the Celebrant says one of the following prayers:

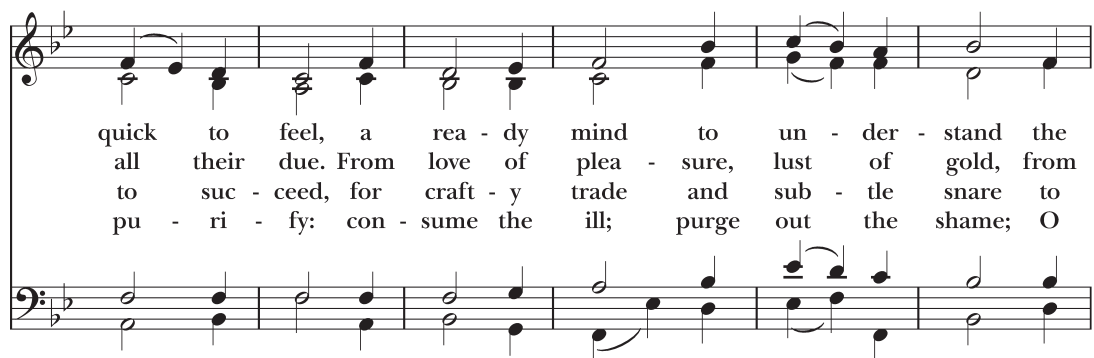
Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

## RECESSIONAL | 574

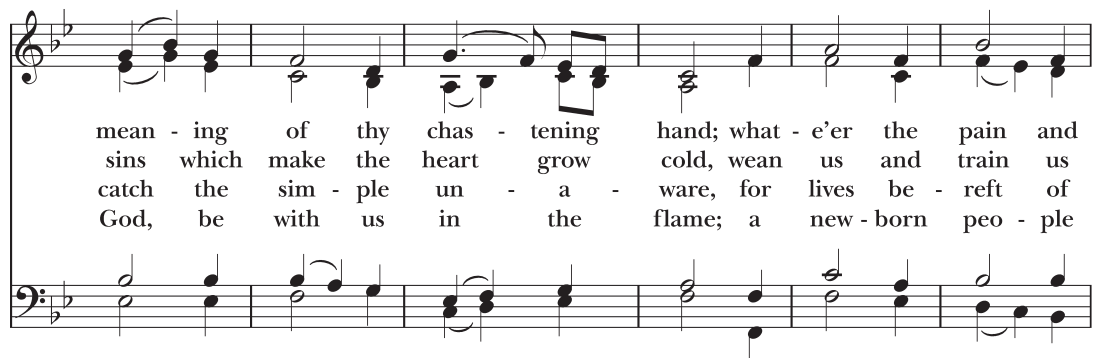
Before thy throne, O God



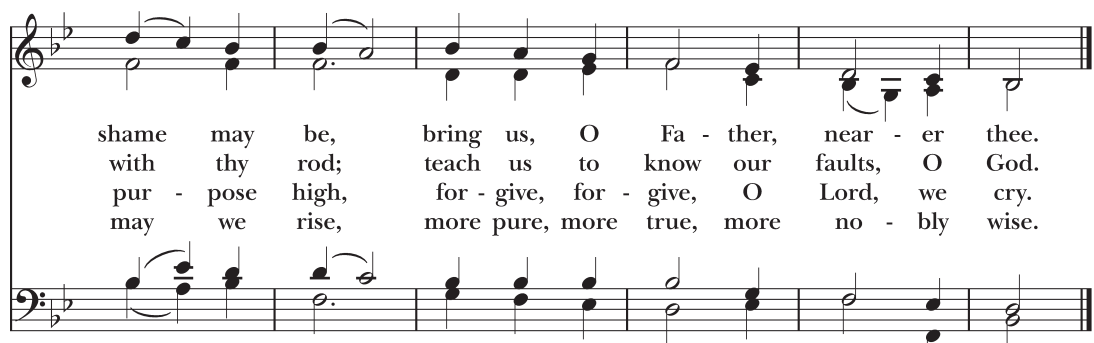
1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science  
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to  
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious  
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits



quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the  
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from  
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to  
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O



mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and  
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us  
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of  
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple



shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.  
with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.  
pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.  
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE