

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 10, 2016

7:00 P.M.

EMMANUEL PARISH
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to this Ash Wednesday Service, as we mark the beginning of the Lenten journey together: three congregations joined by a common ministry and mission in Christ. The service uses elements common to all three liturgical traditions: the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Episcopal Church. The growing convergence of liturgy among our traditions parallels a world-wide reformation of worship that began in the 1960's. Surprising to some, this convergence is due not to the creation of new forms of worship so much as it is a recovery (for some denominations) of liturgical patterns that evolved during the fourth century, prior to the split in the church (the Reformation) that occurred in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Imposition of Ashes is based on a tradition of using ashes that can be traced back to Old Testament times, as a symbol of mourning, mortality and penance. Jesus spoke of ashes and sackcloth in reference to repentance. In the early Church, ashes continued to be associated with penance and in the Middle Ages, with those who were preparing to die. Eventually, the use of ashes was adapted to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day preparation period (not including Sundays) for Easter.

Under **ecumenical agreements** signed in 1997 and 2001, the ELCA is in full communion with both the PC (USA) and Episcopal Churches, meaning that Lutheran pastors are fully interchangeable with both Episcopal and Presbyterian pastors. Episcopal and Presbyterian pastors are not interchangeable but may preach and preside at communion in each other's churches under certain conditions.

We will celebrate our common ministry and mission in Christ during Lent by sharing meals and study based on the text of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* from 6-8pm on Thursdays from February 25th - March 17, and by worshipping together during Holy Week. For a complete list of joint Lenten opportunities, see the insert in your bulletin.

This evening's offering will benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry, a nonprofit organization in our neighborhood that provides access to perishable and non-perishable groceries to needy residents.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly
Reader.....Hans Killius
Liturgists.....Rev'ds. Marsha Bell, Caroline Kelly and Martha Macgill
Celebrant.....Rev. Martha Macgill
Gift Bearers.....Jim and Patti Squires
Directors of Music/Organists.....Judith Brown, David Rankin and Mark Steiner
Combined Choir.....Emmanuel Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church Choirs
Sound Technician..... Jim Squires
Ushers.....Terry Hostetler and Bob Davis

GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

IMPROVISATION ON "PASSION CHORALE"
MARK STEINER, ORGAN

CALL TO REPENTANCE

THE CANTICLE OF JOEL – RETURN TO THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
DAVID COOK, CANTOR

(The Cantor sings a phrase and the congregation responds with the following refrain)

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "E - ven now, e - ven now, re - turn to the LORD." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Text: Jonathan Strommen Campbell, based on Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Music: Jonathan Strommen Campbell
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

All loving and ever living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of those who are penitent. Recreate us, giving us new and honest hearts, that we, sincerely repenting of our sins and facing our broken ways, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED
(See back of bulletin for hymn.)

“HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN”

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of every journey,
walk with us during these Lenten days.
Open us to your presence
in penitence, in scripture, and in all your world
so that we might be strengthened to follow you each and every day,
with Jesus Christ as our guide. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

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

SECOND LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

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

GOSPEL

The Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

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

SERMON

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Tonight, we will all experience not only the imposition of ashes on our own foreheads, but also the sober privilege of imposing ashes on the foreheads of another. As you come forward to one of the stations, receive the imposition of ashes, then take the container, dip your thumb into the ashes and then mark the sign of the cross on the forehead of the person who comes after you saying these words:

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

MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SIGN US WITH ASHES

“PHOENIX”

COMBINED CHOIRS; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Refrain: Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone can save us.

You pay our price with precious blood.

Reaching through your great compassion, you lift up your people with love. *Refrain*

Surely, you alone uphold us.

You give us strength for all our needs.

Shielding with a father’s favor, you bless us with pardon and peace. *Refrain*

Surely, you alone can heal us.

Yours is the will to make us whole.

Soothing with a mother’s kindness, the contrite of heart, you console. *Refrain*

Surely, you alone can free us.

You break the bonds of guilt and sin.

Bracing, till we walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again. *Refrain*

Surely, you alone refine us.

You give us grace for lives made new,

forging, through your fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy for you. *Refrain*

Surely, you alone redeem us.

You fill our dust with holy breath.

Bursting from the grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death! *Refrain*

LORD, FOR THY TENDER MERCY’S SAKE

RICHARD FARRANT

DAVID RANKIN, DIRECTOR; COMBINED CHOIRS; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake lay not our sins to our charge;

but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;

to decline from sin, and incline to virtue,

that we may walk in an upright heart before thee this night and evermore.

PSALM 51 (*The psalm is read responsively, side to side, beginning with the pulpit side.*)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner when my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
That the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

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

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

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SOLO

IF WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

DAVID COOK, TENOR; JUDIE BROWN, ORGAN

Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments
for your transgressions the prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens, through the word of God.
I therefore say to you forsake your idols, return to God;
for he is slow to anger and merciful, and kind and gracious, and grieveth that he must punish.
If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me." Thus saith your God,
Oh! that I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence!

LITANY OF PENITENCE

From lack of reverence for truth and beauty; from a calculating or sentimental mind;
from going along with mean and ugly things;

Holy One, deliver us.

Now, merciful God, we come to you in silence:

you already know the wrong that weights us down, the guilt we cannot shake.

We ask you to take them from us now and set us free to begin a new life.

(Silence)

From cowardice that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth;
or arrogance that purports to know it all;

Holy One, deliver us.

From artificial life and worship, from all that is hollow or insincere;
from trite ideals and cheap pleasures; from mistaking vulgarity for humor;

Holy One, deliver us.

From being pompous, or rude; from cynicism about others; from intolerance or cruel indifference;

Holy One, deliver us.

From being satisfied with things as they are, in the church or in the world;
from failing to share your outrage about injustice;

Holy One, deliver us.

From selfishness, self-indulgence, or self-pity;

Holy One, deliver us.

From token concern for the poor, lonely or loveless people;

from confusing faith with good feeling, or love with wanting to be loved:

Holy One, deliver us.

For everything in us that may hide your light;

Holy One, deliver us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

EUCCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERING

(An offering is received to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry.)

CHORAL OFFERING

CREATE IN ME, O GOD, A PURE HEART

COMBINED CHOIRS; JUDITH BROWN, DIRECTOR; MARK STEINER, ORGAN

Create in me, O God, a pure heart,
and grant anew, a right spirit within me.

OFFERTORY HYMN

GREAT GOD OF EVERY BLESSING

(See back of bulletin for hymn.)

(The gifts of money, bread, and fruit of the vine are brought forward.)

“AURELIA”

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

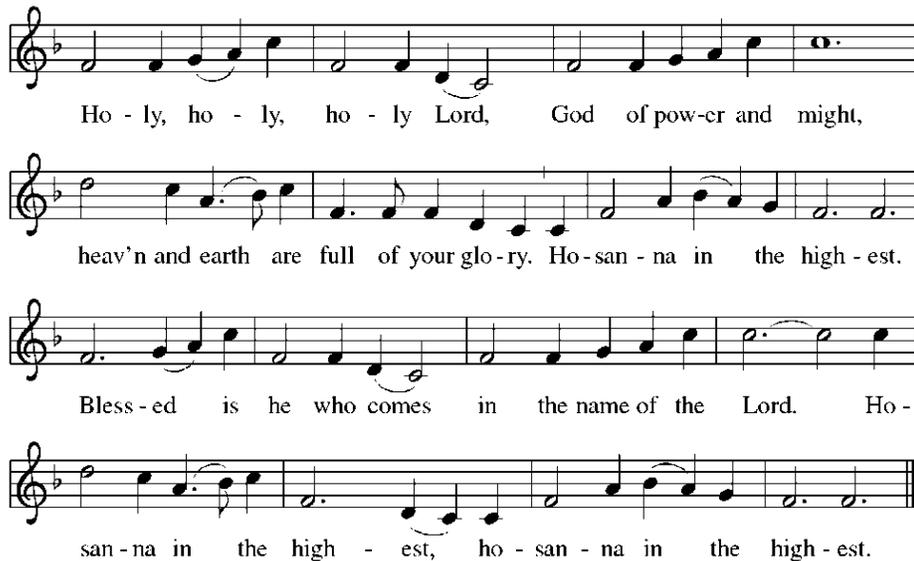
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

And so, Father...

... Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to your this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

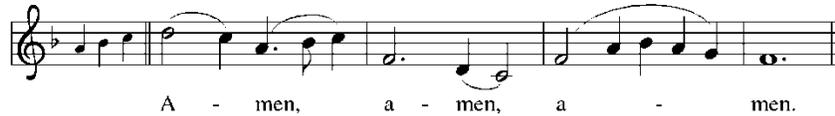
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Mothers and Fathers ...

... that we may worthily serve us one world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.



You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer, using the words closest to your heart:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion tonight will be by intinction or common cup. Please come forward at the invitation of the usher. Extend your palm to receive the bread, then intinct (dip) the bread, or eat the bread and receive the wine or juice from the common cup. Unleavened bread or gluten-free wafers are provided along with red wine or white grape juice. Please advise your server if you desire a wafer. Those who choose not to receive may come forward for a blessing indicating this by crossing their arms over their chest.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

O TASTE AND SEE

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

COMBINED CHOIRS; MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, DIRECTOR; MARK STEINER, ORGAN

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
blest is the one that trusteth in him.

HYMN #496

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

"ONE BREAD, ONE BODY"

HYMN #325

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

"SOJOURNER"

DAVID RANKIN, PIANO

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

**Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

"AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH"

(See back of bulletin for hymn.)

DISMISSAL

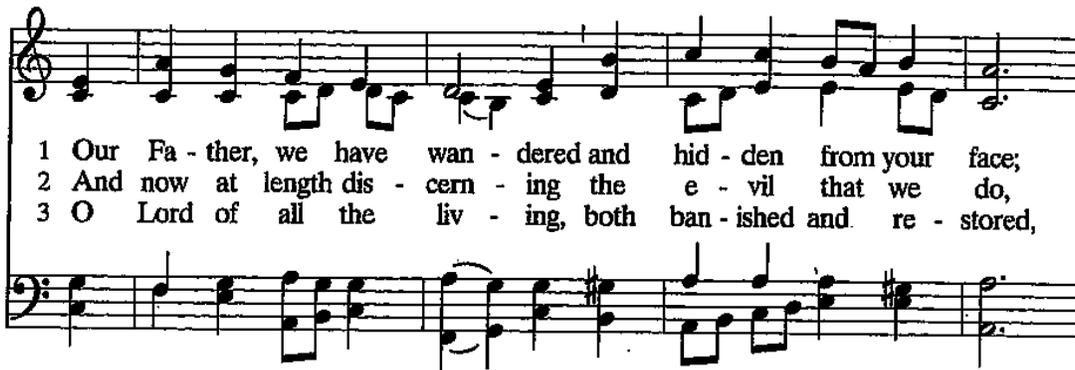
CLOSING VOLUNTARY

IMPROVISATION ON "AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH"

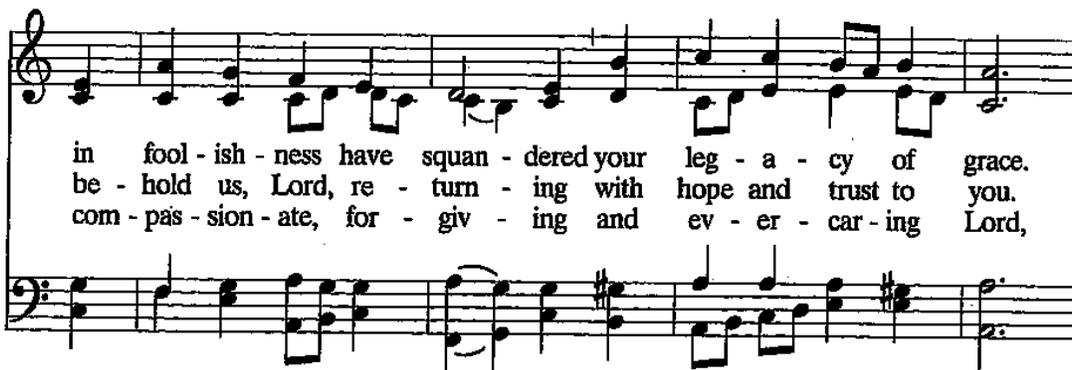
DAVID RANKIN, ORGAN

Our Father, We Have Wandered

733



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

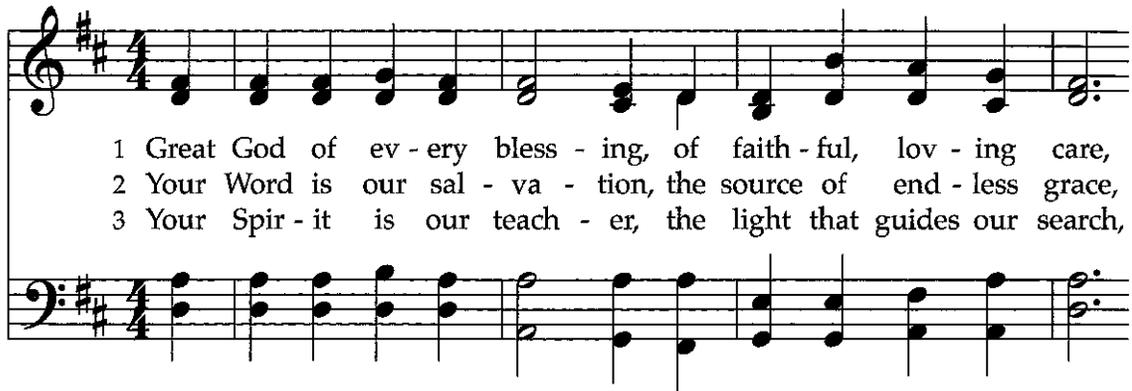


But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

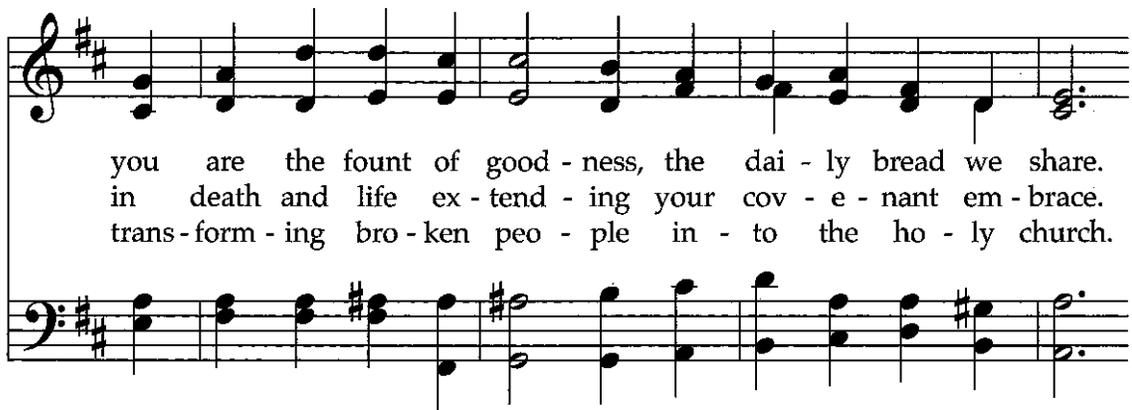


as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

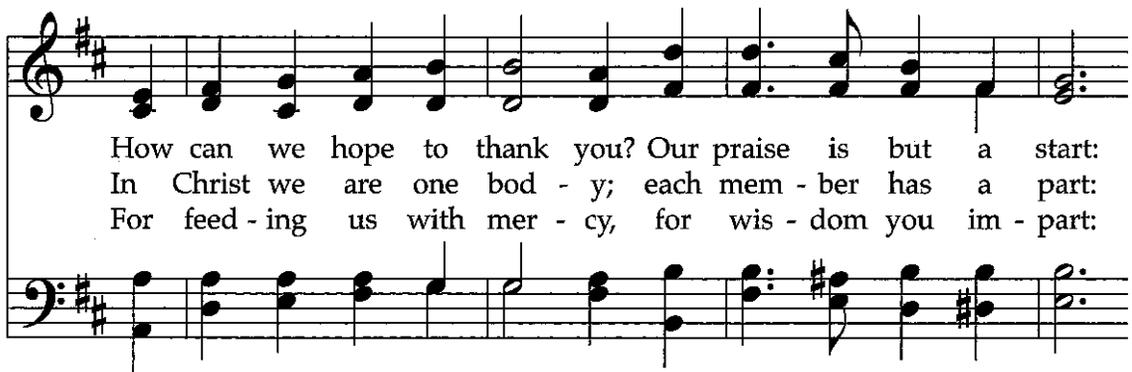
694 Great God of Every Blessing



1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

167 Forty Days and Forty Nights

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,

for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

This text, given sharper focus by being reduced from nine stanzas to five, reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter. It pairs well with a 17th-century German chorale setting for Psalm 130.

Through Darkness Arises Light: A Lenten Study Series

Once again, Emmanuel Parish, First Presbyterian and St. Paul's Lutheran will gather for a joint study series on Thursdays during Lent, this year entitled, "Through Darkness Arises Light." Pastors and musicians from each church will lead us in an exploration of the story of Elijah, as told in First and Second Kings and through Mendelssohn's epic oratorio, "Elijah". Members of the Cumberland Choral Society will also be invited to join us as they prepare to sing the oratorio at their May concert.

We will begin each evening with a light supper followed by study and discussion. We hope that you will be able to join us for this time of fellowship and journey of faith.

Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m. - supper

6:45 p.m. - Elijah study

February 25: Elijah: Exploring the biblical story and Mendelssohn's interpretation

March 3: Elijah: Exploring his place in the Old Testament prophetic tradition

March 10: Elijah: Exploring his message then and now

March 17: Elijah: Exploring God's love and justice

