



# Lutheran Church *of the* REFORMATION

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*



*Ash Wednesday*  
*Our Common Prayer at Home*  
February 17, 2021

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude

*Attende, Domine*

Demessieux

## Welcome

You can use this worship booklet for worship at home. You can also join worship online and find other devotional resources at [www.ReformationDC.org/worship](http://www.ReformationDC.org/worship). When there is more than one person worshipping in the same room or when you join the online worship service, one person reads the regular print and the other(s) say the bold print. The hymns are from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

If you or a neighbor need pastoral care, please call the church office at **202-543-4200** or one of the pastors via email: Pastor Mike at [Wilker@reformationdc.org](mailto:Wilker@reformationdc.org) or Pastor Ben at [Hogue@ReformationDC.org](mailto:Hogue@ReformationDC.org). Voicemail will have instructions about how to contact them in case of emergency. If you are interested in Baptism and Membership at Reformation, please reach out to Pastor Ben and he can discuss details and discern next steps with you!

Reformation honors the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples upon whose land we live and worship. We are committed to solidarity with the American Indian /Alaska Native Lutheran Association. Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church's ministry. Since 1987, we have been part of **ReconcilingWorks**, a national Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry.

## Acclamation

*The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus' early apostles and then join their hearts in prayer. 2 Corinthians 13:14.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

**Amen.**

## Invitation to Lenten Discipline

### Psalm

Psalm 51:1-17

*Psalm 51:1-17 is a penitential psalm that the Hebrew Bible puts in the mouth of King David when he repented of adultery and murder. This magnificent prayer for forgiveness is filled with body imagery and is appropriate for a day in which ashes are placed on our foreheads.*

*The leader will read the verses in regular type and everyone is invited to read the verses in **bold type**.*

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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against 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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

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

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

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

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

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

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

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

*After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues:*

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.*

## First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

<sup>1</sup>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—  
<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    <sup>13</sup>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.  
<sup>14</sup>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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
    <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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?'"

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 103:8-14

*God is merciful and gracious to us, even though we are merely creatures of dust.*

*The leader will read the verses in regular type and everyone is invited to read the verses in **bold type**.*

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
**nor will you keep your anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
**nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is your steadfast love for those who revere you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
**so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so you have compassion for those who revere you, O LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>For you know well how we are formed;  
**you remember that we are but dust.**

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

En tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,  
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

en tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,  
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

cum - ple la pro - me - sa de tu sal - va - ción;  
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word,

tu pa - la - bra con - fia - ré.  
we will trust . . . . . your word.

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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. <sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.



<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Michael Wilker

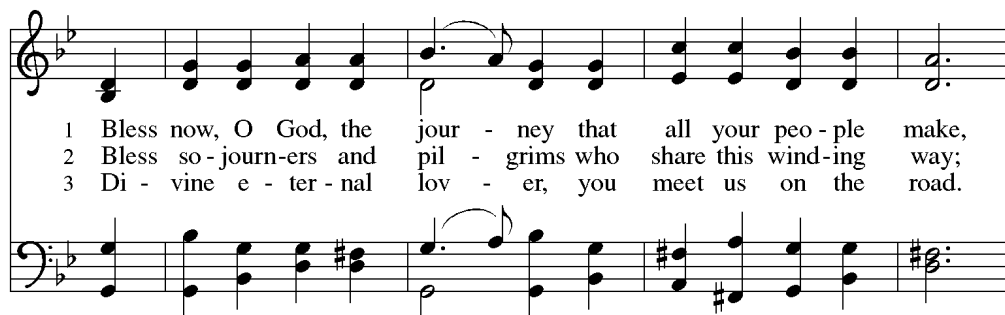


*Please stand as you are able, proclaim the word of God in song.*

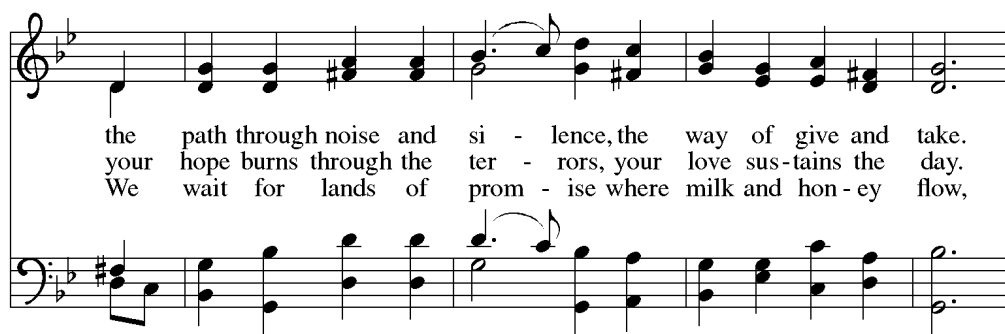
## Hymn of the Day

## Bless Now O God the Journey

ELW 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## Confession of Sin

Before God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

*The assembly remains seated. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **Imposition of Ashes**

*This year because we cannot gather and touch one another outside our household, worshippers are invited to find some soil in or around their home. If needed, moisten it with a little oil or water. As the worship leader says the following words, dip your finger in the wet soil and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead and/or on other members of your household.*

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

*After silent prayer, the ministers continue.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you call your church to be ministers of forgiveness throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with your friends and family while we listen to a musical offering. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state.*

## THANKSGIVING

*We give thanks for the saving Word of Christ and all the gifts of God.*

### Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

*Although we are not gathering in the sanctuary, Reformation's ministries continue every day. Staff members are providing individual and communal pastoral care, coordinating lay leaders and volunteers, caring for our facilities, connecting us with one another, and developing resources for worship and spiritual growth. This time has disrupted the usual way we gather offerings and severely restricted the gifts of some households. We invite you to give as you are able.*

*Please give online at [ReformationDC.org/give](https://ReformationDC.org/give) or send your checks to the church office. If you want to begin or change your Simply Giving weekly or monthly donation, email [Office@ReformationDC.org](mailto:Office@ReformationDC.org).*

*To use our new **Text-to-Give** option, send a text message to 844-414-8057 with the amount you would like to give to Reformation. You will receive a secure link to input your payment information. Once you have filled out your payment information, the contribution will be deposited directly into Reformation's bank account. After completing this setup, you can use text-to-give to donate again by simply texting additional donations to 844-414-8057.*

*Ehre sei Dir, Christe*

Schuetz

*See the following page for hymn text.*

Mission Announcements can be found at [www.reformationdc.org/worship](https://www.reformationdc.org/worship)

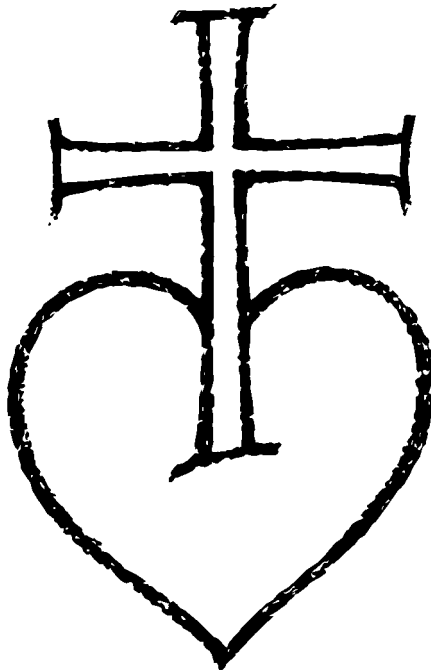
## Ehre sei Dir, Christe

### German text:

*Ehre sei dir Christe,  
der du littest Not  
An Stamm des Kreuzes für uns  
den bittern Tod,  
Und herrschest mit dem Vater  
dort in Ewigkeit,  
Hilf uns armen Sündern zu der Seligkeit.  
Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison.*

### English translation:

*Honor be to Christ,  
You who suffered torment  
On the branch of the Cross for us,  
and bitter death,  
And governs with the Father  
there in eternity,  
Help us poor sinners into blessedness.  
Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.*



## **Sending Prayer**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may do works of mercy, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

*We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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 forever.**

**Amen.**



# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

Numbers 6:23-26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

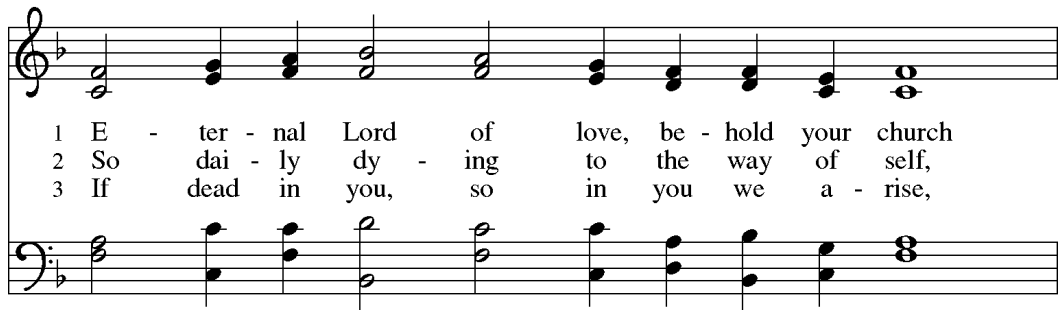
The LORD look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

**Amen.**

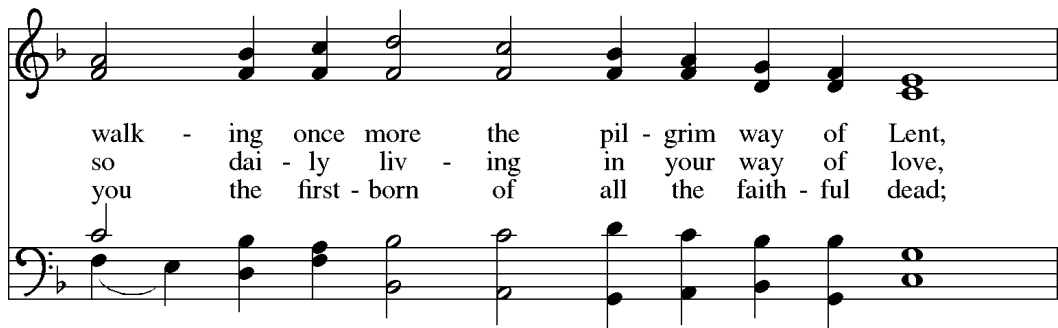
## Sending Hymn

*Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

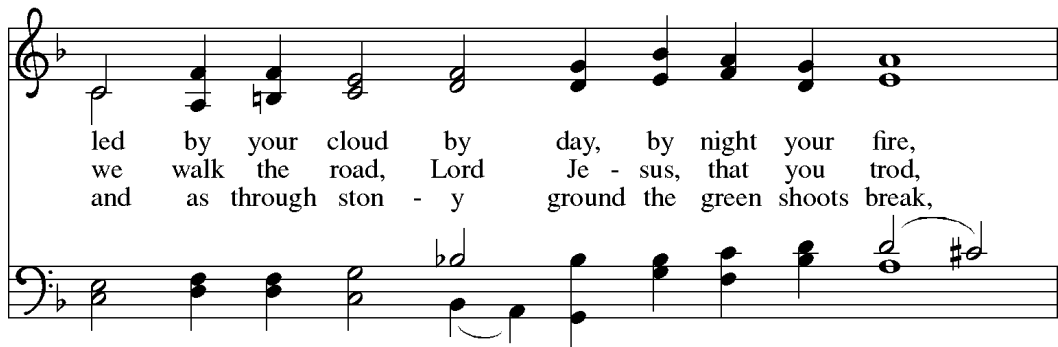
ELW 321



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

## Sending

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Fantasia in G minor*

Bach

# Prayer List

## **WE PRAY FOR. . .**

*The friends and family of Frank Niekrasz, grandfather of Will Anderson, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life.*

*The friends and family of Ralph Edgar Spoor, father of Cindy Spoor, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life.*

*Mary Amberson, Julie Jones' sister, as she continues to recover from hip surgery.*

*Mel Antonen's family and friends, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life.*

*Mary James's family and friends, as they grieve her death and celebrate her life.*

*The family and friends of Uncle Billy, Caitlin Jacob's cousin, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life.*

*Robert Pfahl and his family, as he struggles with neurological and physical health matters.*

*Paul Tobias, brother of Kathy, as he undergoes treatment for serious health issues.*

*For those experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and distance from family and friends.*

*Cade, cousin of Kiri Nicholson, as he continues cancer treatment.*

*Members and friends affected by COVID-19.*

*David, the father of Phillip and Harriet Vender's daughter-in-law, who is living with lymphoma.*

## **For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service**

*Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson and family members of those in service here and around the world.*

## **From our hearts for**

*Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajeane Crupi, Bob Hedrick, Bernice*

*Hoveland, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Wayne Krumwiede,*

*Margot Lyddane, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Al*

*Stauderman, Helen Vigness, Carolyn Walker, Thomas Winter, and Gloria Wolf.*

**Please email your prayer requests to Pastor Mike at [wilker@ReformationDC.org](mailto:wilker@ReformationDC.org)**

## Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Ben Hogue
Preacher	Pastor Michael Wilker
Assisting Minister	Matt Aviles
Reader	Dina Finkel
Cantors	Jon Korman, Gabbi Levy, Jon-Michael Eclar, Alexa Newlin
Zoom Host	Kiri Nicholson
Facebook Host	Jenna Jablonski
Livestream Tech Team	Andy Weaver

The most up-to-date Worship Schedule, will be found on our website, [www.reformationdc.org](http://www.reformationdc.org).

We will continue to follow the guidelines of health professionals, scientists, government officials, and church leaders to make decisions regarding gathering for in-person worship. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION**  
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Phone: 202-543-4200 ☩ Email: [office@reformationdc.org](mailto:office@reformationdc.org)

**A Reconciling in Christ congregation**

Lead Pastor	Pastor Michael Wilker <a href="mailto:wilker@ReformationDC.org">wilker@ReformationDC.org</a>	President: Molly Higgins
Associate Pastor	Pastor Ben Hogue <a href="mailto:hogue@ReformationDC.org">hogue@ReformationDC.org</a>	Vice President: Elizabeth Hann
Director of Operations	Tegan Peterson <a href="mailto:peterston@ReformationDC.org">peterston@ReformationDC.org</a>	Secretary: Emily Andre
Administrative Assistant	Angela Small <a href="mailto:small@ReformationDC.org">small@ReformationDC.org</a>	Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hazard
Director of Music & Arts	Paul Leavitt <a href="mailto:pdleavitt0918@gmail.com">pdleavitt0918@gmail.com</a>	Treasurer: Roger Moffatt
Community Host	Christine Goepfert <a href="mailto:space@ReformationDC.org">space@ReformationDC.org</a>	

## Connect with us!



**Church of the Reformation**



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