

*A tolling bell breaks the silence as we prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent.*

KYRIE

ELW, #151

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927  
 Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Gracious God, **out of Your love and mercy You breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve You and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.**

ACCLAMATION

ELW, #186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
 spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
 your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

READING: Psalm 146:2-10a

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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-9

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

SERMON

Pastor Trudy Stoffel

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most 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 judgements, 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

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*As we sing, those who wish may come forward for the imposition of ashes*

*After all have received ashes, we continue:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the world 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.**



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.  
 2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend  
 3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.  
 that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end  
 re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,  
 I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire  
 and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.  
 yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.  
 how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945  
 Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585  
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1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due;  
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,  
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



when, re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes;  
 by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,  
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,  
 by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,  
 by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,  
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,  
 oh, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.  
 Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

PRAYERS After each petition: God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

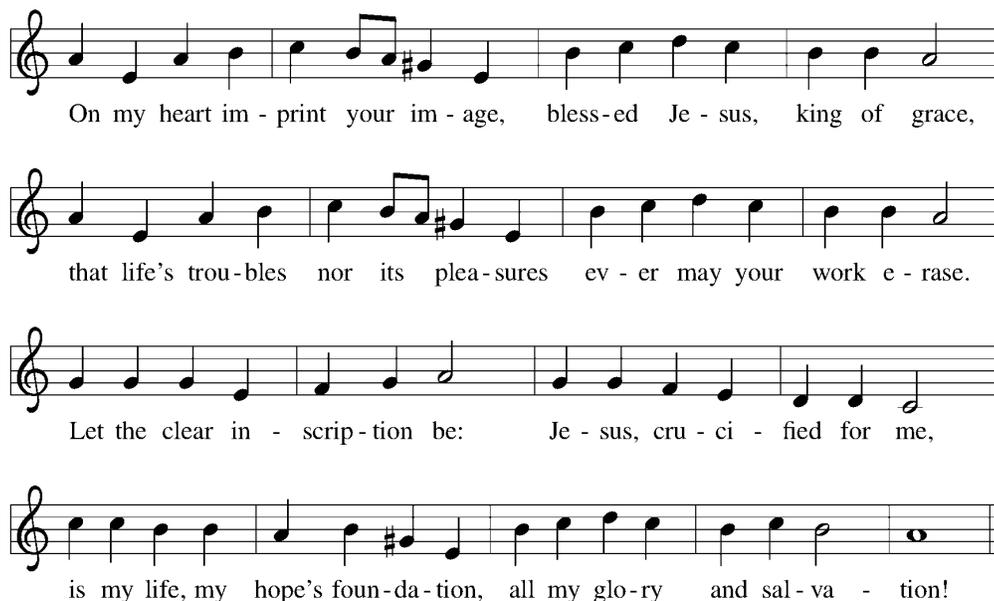
## BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## HYMN

### “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

ELW, #811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,  
that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

## DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

*All depart in silence*

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