



Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Midweek Lenten Service  
March 10, 2021 – 7:00pm

## CREATED FOR COMMUNITY



A Midweek Lenten Series

### OVERVIEW

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.

In the early church, the weeks before Easter were a time in which the whole community took responsibility for the training of catechumens. Not only were the catechumens enriched by this formation, but those already within the community were strengthened in their faith along with them.

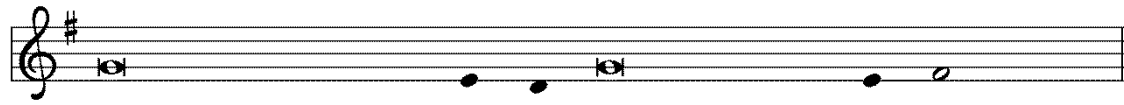
Using readings from Mark’s gospel, this series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

*We gather in the sanctuary in silence to center our hearts and minds.*

**OPENING**

ELW p.320

*We acknowledge God's presence and pray for God's peace.*



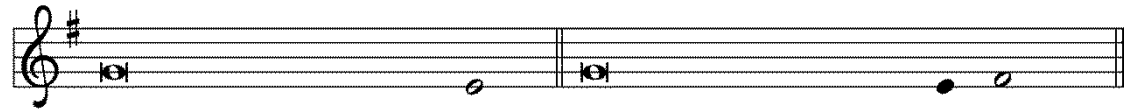
Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



**A - men.**



It is good to give thanks to the Lord, **to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**



to herald your love in the morning, **your truth at the close of the day.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*We confess our sins and receive forgiveness.*

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed.

I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

**Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

**GATHERING SONG**

*Bless Now, O God, The Journey*

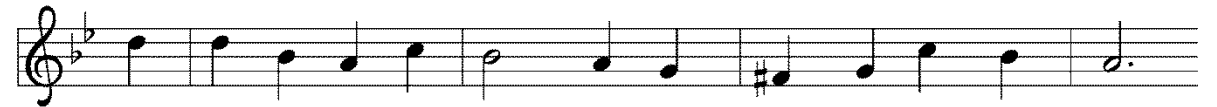
ELW #326



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.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Neighbor to all people, you call us into human communities to serve and be served by one another. Open our hearts to the needs of all our neighbors, and teach us to recognize the gifts you have given each of us to use in service to others. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**WEEK THREE***In community with our neighbor*

The Sunday readings for Lent 3, year B center us in the ten commandments, which serve, among other things, as a way of living in community with our neighbor. Jesus' actions in the temple are, in part, a reaction to dishonest dealings with neighbors from near and far who have come to worship. Being in community with our neighbor is complicated and beautiful. Mark 2:1-12, the story of the paralyzed man brought to Jesus through the roof of a crowded room, highlights the way in which it takes a community to care for one another.

**SCRIPTURE**

Mark 2:1-12

*A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus*

<sup>1</sup>When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone? <sup>8</sup>At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — <sup>11</sup>I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home. <sup>12</sup>And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

*We engage the scripture together in a prayerful way, reading the texts three times.*

*Reading the first time: Listen for a word or short phrase that stands out to you.*

*Reading the second time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to you personally.*

*Reading the third time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to the community/communities of which you are a part.*

**SUNG RESPONSE**     *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*     ELW #708

*Refrain*



Je - su,                      Je - su,                      fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,     si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor,     var - ied in col - or and race,  
 3 These are the ones we will serve,     these are the ones we will love;  
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,     si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

*Refrain*

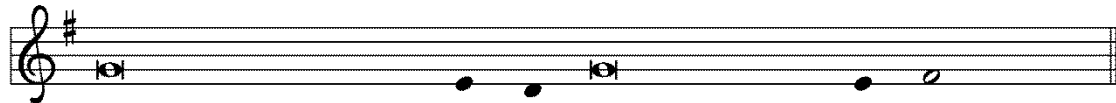


mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.  
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
 this is the way we will live with you.

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**PRAYERS**

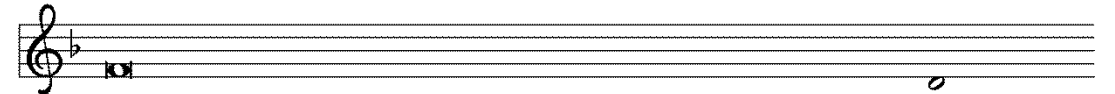


Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

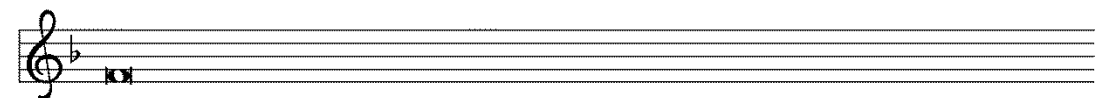


**A - men.**

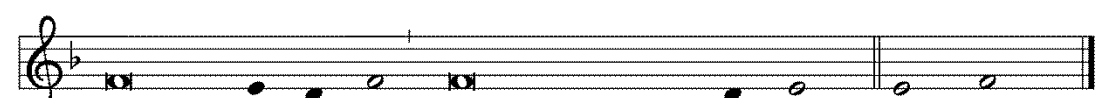
*We pray in thanksgiving for God's provision, protection and mercy, and for the needs of our community and our world. Prayers may be spoken or offered in silence. We will conclude this time of silent and spoke prayer with the sung response.*



Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night,



so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may



find our rest in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A - men.**

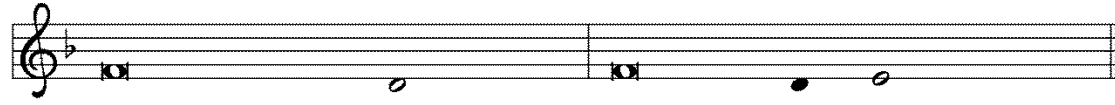
**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

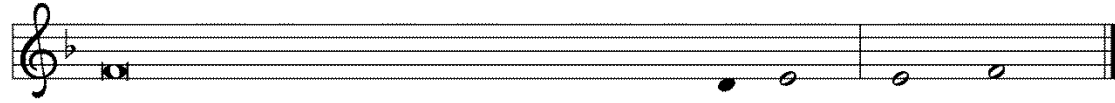
# BLESSING



Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,



bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forev-er - more. **A - men.**

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