



**Ash Wednesday**  
**March 5, 2025**  
**Buffalo Presbyterian Church**  
**Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church**  
Leading Worship Today:  
**Pastor Brian Entz, BPC**  
**Pastor Sarah Bunge, SOJ**

*Please stand when there is an \**  
*Please read along with all **Bold** text*

**Prelude and Preparations Psalm Prelude, Set 1, no. 2**

*Herbert Howells*

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*  
*-Matthew 11:28*

*With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. -A Brief Statement of Faith*

## Welcome

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, our Source and Creator, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and humble hearts, that truly turning from our sins, and acknowledging the brokenness in our lives, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, forgiveness and wholeness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn**

**#418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling**

### **Psalm 51:**

1 Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!  
Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

**2 Wash me completely clean of my guilt;  
purify me from my sin!**

3 Because I know my wrongdoings,  
my sin is always right in front of me.

**4 I've sinned against you—you alone.  
I've committed evil in your sight.  
That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,  
completely correct when you issue your judgment.**

5 Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,  
from the moment my mother conceived me.

**6 And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;  
you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.**

7 Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
wash me and I will be brighter than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and celebration again;  
let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.**

9 Hide your face from my sins;  
wipe away all my guilty deeds!

**10 Create a clean heart for me, God;  
put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!**

11 Please don't throw me out of your presence;  
please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

**12 Return the joy of your salvation to me  
and sustain me with a willing spirit.**

13 Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways,  
and sinners will come back to you.

**14 Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation,  
so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.**

15 Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

**16 You don't want sacrifices.  
If I gave an entirely burned offering,  
you wouldn't be pleased.**

17 A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God.  
You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.

*Period of Silence*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy One, in your Word you took on our flesh and redeemed it by the power of your Spirit, by that same Spirit make your Word known to us now in our reading and our listening. Amen.

### **Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

1"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.

2"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. 3But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5"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. 6But 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.

16"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. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so 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.

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

## **Meditation**

*Pastor Brian Entz*

## **Anthem**

**Lord God, Have Mercy**

*Schubert, arr. Hopson*

*Period of Silence*

## **Litany of Confession**

### **Response**

**#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: Holy and merciful God, 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.**

### **Response**

**#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2**

Leader: 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, O God.**

Leader: We have not listened 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, O God.**

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**People : we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

**Response**

**#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2**

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People accept our repentance, O God.**

Leader: 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, O God.**

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**People: accept our repentance, O God.**

Leader: For the good that we have left undone, the truth we have ignored, and the beauty we have squandered,

**People: accept our repentance, O God.**

**Response**

**#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2**

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
**People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**  
Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,  
**People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*Blessing the Dust, by Jan Richardson*

Leader: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

*People are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. A pastor marks the forehead of each person with the ashes, using the following words from Gen. 3:19. If you are unable to come forward someone will bring ashes to you. As people receive ashes the congregation will sing:*

### **#678 Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight**

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

**\*Hymn**

**#435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**\*Blessing and Sending**

*Please Leave in Silence*

## WORSHIP NOTES

All liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

**#418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling** Text and Music: Will L. Thompson, 1880

**Lord God, Have Mercy** Franz Schubert arr. By Hal H. Hopson ©1984, Harold Flammer, Inc Sole Selling Agent: Shawnee Press, Inc.

**#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer** Text: Taize Community, 1982, 1991 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982 Text and Music ©1982 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc)

**#678 Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight** Text: Taize Community, 1991 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1991 Text and Music ©1991 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

**#435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy** | TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt. | MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906 | Public domain

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Sarah Bunge, Pastor

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CONFESSION

# 418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.



# O Lord, Hear My Prayer

## The Lord Is My Song

471

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
 Or The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O  
 all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song; the

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.  
 Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1-2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

# Our Darkness Is Never Darkness 678 in Your Sight

*La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre devant toi*

Capo 2: (E) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (E)  
F# Bm A D G F#

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the  
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

(Am) (G) (C) (Dm6) (Esus) (E)  
Bm A D Em6 F#sus F#

deep - est night is clear as the day - light.  
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the last two lines of lyrics. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written for guitar with a capo on the second fret. The lyrics are in English and French.

Like other chants from the Taizé Community in France, this paraphrase of Psalm 139:12 is meant for repeated singing. It is most effective at evening services and works well with other Taizé chants such as "Within Our Darkest Night" (no. 294) and "The Lord Is My Light" (no. 842).

FORGIVENESS

# 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness  
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures  
 of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,  
 of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal  
 which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's  
 is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more  
 sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place  
 faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-  
 where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
 flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.