

# **Ash Wednesday Liturgy 2016**

St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church  
San Francisco, California

## **Vested Ministers**

Leader A .....

Leader B .....

Leader C .....

Presider.....

Cantor .....

## **Recruits**

- A welcomer to offer service books and ask people to read intercessions.
- Readers.
- Someone to serve a chalice at communion.

## **Set Up**

Entry:

- Icons on mudcloth-draped stands.
- Music books (w/ insert) on welcome table.
- Index cards printed with intercessions.
- 4 medium-sized bowls of very hot, slightly soapy water.
- 4 hand towels.

Rotunda:

- Light icon candle half an hour ahead of time.
- Put cross stand beside Altar Table.
- Dim light settings and turn on lights.
- Altar Table covered with mudcloth.
- 4 chalices.
- 2 patens.
- Dark palls for covering vessels after communion.
- Missal marked with “Cain our Father” prayer.

### Seating Area:

- Presider's chair covered with mudcloth.
- Small brass bucket partly full of water with branch in it.
- Presider's cross in its stand.
- Leader's candle (lit) on its stand.
- Four bowls of ashes and damp clothes. TWO on the candle stand by Presider's chair, TWO on stand by the lectern.
- Lectern, menorah stand & incense stand all covered with mudcloth.
- Gospel book on the lectern.
- Standing thurible prepared with a lit charcoal.
- Incense boat filled.
- DO NOT LIGHT Candles in menorah and oil lamp.
- Brass candle-lighters and tapers on menorah stand.

### Vestry:

- Drum by vestry door.
- 4 complete scripts.

### Table under Scroll:

- Navajo basket with 2 loaves of bread.
- Carafe with about 1/2 bottle of wine in it.

## **6:45PM**

*Greeter Assists with nametags, music books.*

*Greeter Tells people that we will begin in the seating area.*

*People Arrive, put on name tags, and sit in silence.*

## **7PM**

### **Entrance and Lamp Lighting**

*Leaders, Cantor and Presider enter casually from the vestry*

*All go to their seats and sit in silence.*

*Cantor times two minutes and then strikes bells.*

#### **Leader A**

Please stand.

#### **Presider**

♪ Blessed be our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages!

#### **People**

♪ Amen.

#### **Presider**

♩ Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the evening light. Giver of light and grace, lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Shine on us, Lord, and we shall be light as the day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **People**

♩ Amen.



## **Leader B**

Kneel before God our maker.

*Leaders take ashes at either end of the solea and kneel.*

*Cantor observes TWO minute silence; rings hand-bells.*

## **Leader A stands**

Please stand. *Pause*

We will mark each other with ash. After you've received the bowl of ashes, turn to the person beside you, and mark their forehead with the ashes. Then hand that person the bowl and towel.

## **Leader C**

As you mark each other say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

*Presider, Leader A impose ashes on the people beside them.*

*Presider imposes on Cantor.*

*Cantor chants after receiving ashes, repeating until all have received.*

## **Cantor**

♪ Let us humble the flesh by abstinence as we follow the divine path of fasting.

With prayers and tears let us seek the Lord who saves us.

Let us put an end to anger, crying out:

Save us who have sinned against you!

Save us, O Christ, as you saved the people of Nineveh, and make us partakers of your heavenly kingdom,

O Compassionate One! We pray to you, merciful One:

Cleanse us by repentance, enlighten us through prayer and fasting, and turn your face to us, O giver of life!  
Your grace has shown forth, O Lord,  
the grace which illumines our soul.

♪ Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin:

Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me:

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me:

Lord, have mercy.

♪ Now is the acceptable time!

Now is the time of repentance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness

and put on the armor of light,

that passing through the fast

as through a great sea

we may reach the resurrection on the third day

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

♪ Kyrie Eleison – Christe Eleison – Kyrie Eleison (ad libitum)

*Midway through the canticle:*

- *Leader C gets candle*
- *Leader B and Leader C fetch the reader and bring to lectern.*
- *Leader B stands on the reader's left*
- *Leader C stands on the reader's right*

## First Reading

### Leader B

Take your seats [PAUSE] and hear a reading from the Prophet Joel

### Reader

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—  
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.

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    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.  
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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
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.

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?"

*During reading, cantor makes sure the recorder is turned ON, but NOT recording.*

*Immediately following the reading:*

**Cantor** rings pot bells.

- **Leader C** carries candle back to candle stand.
- **Leader B** thanks reader and returns to seat, leaving Gospel Book on the stand.
- **Cantor** times TWO minutes of silence, then rings handbells.

**Leader B** stands

Stand and sing number 24 in your books, *Pour down, you heavens from above*, number 24.

Cantor:

All:

Pour down, you hea - vens, from a - bove and let the skies rain down right - eous - ness.

*melody in tenor may be sung an octave higher*

Be not ex - ceed - ing an - gry, Lord, do not remember i - ni - qui - ty for e - ver.

Your ho - ly cities are a wilderness, Zi - on is a wil - der - ness, Je - ru - sa - lem a

de - so - la - tion. Our holy and beau - ti - ful house, the tem - ple where our fore - bears praised you.

Pour down, you hea - vens, from a - bove and let the skies rain down right - eous - ness.

We have all become like un - clean things, we all with - er like leaves,

and our misdeeds carry us off like the wind; for you have hidden your face from us,

and left us in the grip of our i - ni - qui - ties.

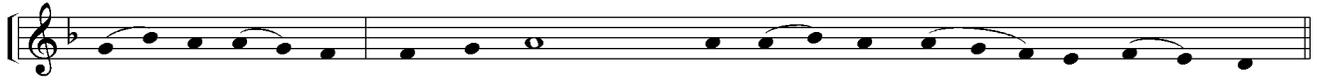
Pour down, you hea - vens, from a - bove and let the skies rain down right - eous - ness.



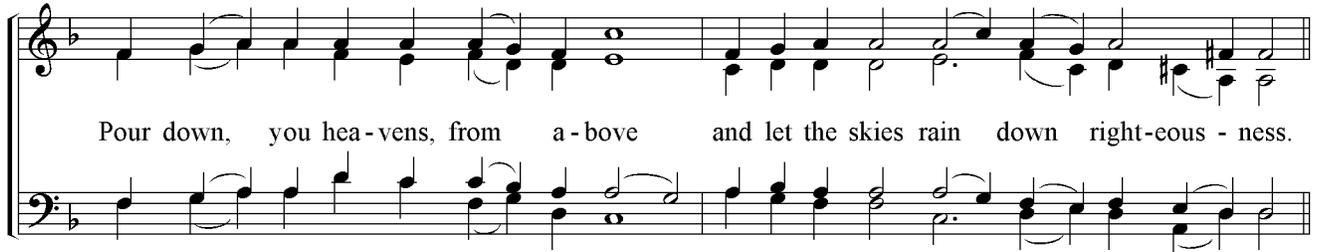
You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have cho - sen that you may



know me and be-lieve in me: it is I, I am the Lord, and besides me there



is no Sa - vior, there is none who can de - li - ver out of my hand.



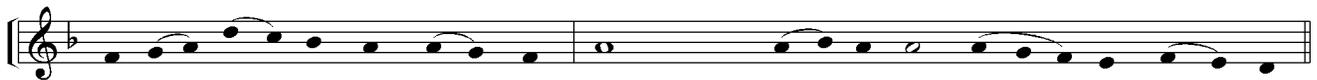
Pour down, you hea - vens, from a - bove and let the skies rain down right-eous - ness.



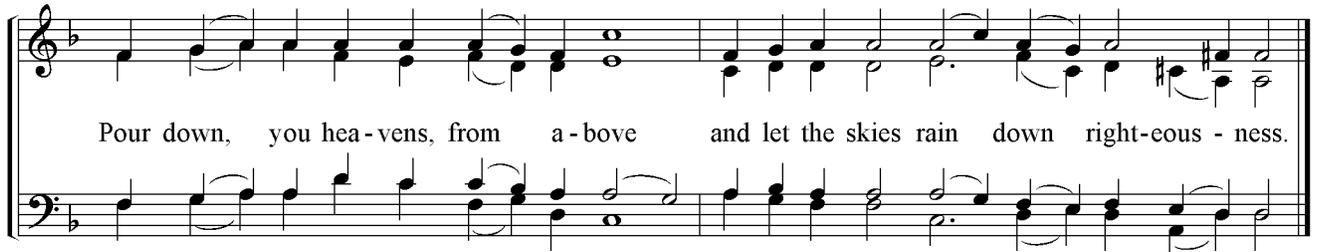
Com - fort, O comfort my peo - ple, says your God; my sal - va - tion will not tar - ry:



I have swept a-way your trans-gres - sions like a cloud: fear not, for I will save you,



for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Is - ra - el, your re - deem - er.



Pour down, you hea - vens, from a - bove and let the skies rain down right-eous - ness.

*Midway through the canticle:*

- **Leader C** gets candle
- **Leader B** and **Leader C** fetch the reader and bring to lectern.
- **Leader B** stands on the reader's left
- **Leader C** stands on the reader's right

## Gospel Reading

**Leader B** *crossing book, then forehead, lips and heart*

♪ The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People**

♪ Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**Reader**

Jesus said, "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.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. 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.

"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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

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

### **Leader C**

♪ The Gospel of the Lord

### **People**

♪ Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*Leader A with candle returns to seat.*

*Leader B brings Gospel Book to Preacher and goes to seat*

*All sit.*

*Cantor rings bell—TWO minutes silence ends silence with hand-bells.*

## **Sermon**

*Preacher offers a sermon of no more than TEN minutes.*

*At the conclusion, Cantor rings bell—TWO minutes silence ends silence with hand-bells.*

# The Lord's Prayer & Litany of Penitence

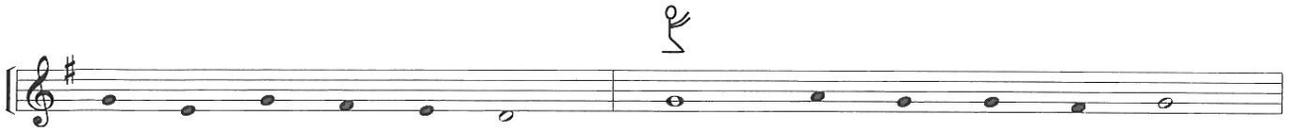
## Leader B

We'll sing the Lord's Prayer at #42 in your books. Keep your place in the book because we'll finish singing together.

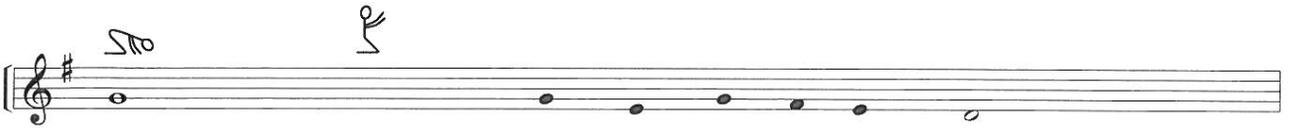
Please stand and sing #42.



Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done,



on earth and in hea - ven. Give us to - day the bread of life



and for give us our sins as we forgive those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and deliv - er us from e - vil.

***Intercessors read aloud their prayers from wherever they are in the seating area. Intercessions are printed on index cards.***

**Intercessor 1**

We have not loved you with our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

*(silence)*

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Intercessor 2**

We have been deaf to your call to serve. We have been lazy, proud, and hypocritical. *(silence)*

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Intercessor 3**

We have been selfish and greedy, and have taken advantage of others. *(silence)*

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Intercessor 4**

We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves. *(silence)*

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Intercessor 5**

We have sought vengeance over mercy and practiced violence instead of peace. We have been dishonest in daily life and work. (*silence*)

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Intercessor 6**

We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to commend the faith that is in us. (*silence*)

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

**Intercessor 7**

We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to injustice and cruelty. (*silence*)

**Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People**

Lord have mercy.

### **Intercessor 8**

We have judged those unlike us, and acted without charity to the least members of our community. (*silence*)

#### **Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

#### **People**

Lord have mercy.

### **Intercessor 9**

We have squandered your creation, and ignored the needs of those who come after us. (*silence*)

#### **Leader B**

For true repentance, and the grace to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

#### **People**

Lord have mercy.

*Leader C holds the bucket of water*

*Presider sprinkles people with water from the bucket*

### **Presider**

♪ Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins, O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal the sickness of our souls, for Your Name's sake.

*Cantor leads "The Lord's Prayer—doxology"*



For the kingdom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## Procession to the Table

*Leader C takes the bucket, Presider takes cross from stand*

### **Leader A**

We'll go up to the Table, singing *Eternal Lord of Love* at Number 9 in your music books, Number 9.

*NOT A TRIPUDIUM.*

*Cantor leads music and gives cue to step off.*

*Leader B and Leader C lead lines as needed.*

*Leader A recruits volunteers to bring the gifts and goes to the offering table under the scroll, get bread and wine, and bring them to Table.*

*Presider leads the procession, then puts cross in stand under Table*

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

1 more the pil - gim way of Lent, Led by your cloud by  
 2 liv - ing to your way of love, we walk the road, Lord  
 3 born of all the faith - ful dead; and as through ston - y

1 day, by night your fire, moved by your love and toward your  
 2 Je - sus, that you trod, know - ing our - selves bap - tized in -  
 3 ground the green shoots break, glo - rious in spring-time dress of

1 pres - ence bent: far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
 2 to your death: so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 3 leaf and flower, so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

## Peace

### Presider

Christ has come, bringing us peace here and now. Turn to those near you and share it. The Peace of the Lord be with you all!

### People

And also with you!

*All exchange Peace*

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Cantor

The service continues at #44 in your books, #44.

### Presider

♪ It is truly fitting and right to praise you  
at all times and in all places,  
O God, Savior of the world.  
For you made all humankind in your own image,  
to rule your creation in peace,  
and commanded us to live together in love forever.  
And though Cain our father rose in anger  
and killed his brother, you had mercy on him.  
You gave him a covenant,  
and marked him with a protecting sign;  
you placed the gravest sinners beyond human judgment.  
With the same steadfast love  
you led your people Israel out of slavery;  
and when they deserted you  
and worshipped false gods you did not forsake them.

You gave them your law to guide them,  
and led them through the desert to a land of promise.  
So in every place where we made war,  
you have led us towards peace;  
where we fell into sin, you forgave us;  
where we wandered, you called us back with promises of love.  
In the fullness of time you sent your Son,  
to seek out the lost and bring them the good news  
of your boundless mercy.  
He did not confine himself to the righteous,  
but chose sinners for his friends.  
On the cross he forgave those who sacrificed him  
and with his dying breath, showed the fullness of your love.  
Then you raised him from the dead,  
and poured out his spirit on all people,  
sharing his victory over death  
with those who rejected him.  
And so, we sinners give thanks  
for the death and risen life of your Son.  
For on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said  
“Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in  
remembrance of me.”  
After supper he took the cup of wine;  
and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them and said  
“Drink of this, all of you: This is my blood of the new  
covenant, which is shed for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”  
And so, Father, of all the things that are yours  
we offer you these, which are yours especially.  
We offer them gladly, as he told us,  
giving thanks for his death and resurrection.  
And seeing that the power of sin is broken,  
and Christ is all in all,  
we praise you and we bless you.

### **People**

♪We praise you, we bless you...

### **Presider**

♪Now send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
to show that they are the body and blood of your Son,  
and every sin is pardoned, and every debt redeemed,  
and you have made us your holy people.  
And bring us at last his kingdom of peace.  
Already we gather to welcome him;  
and lifting our voices with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we join in the triumphal song

### **People**

♪Holy, holy, holy....

## Communion

*Cantor leads congregation in singing "Servant of God."*

*Presider breaks bread.*

*Leader B pours wine into chalices.*

*Recruit comes to table to help carry chalice.*

### **Leader A**

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table, and so we offer everyone, without exception, the bread and wine which are Christ's body and blood. \_\_\_\_\_ (*Presider's name*), the Body of Christ. (Amen) The Blood of Christ. (Amen)

*Presider communicates Cantor, leaders, recruit*

*Presider and Leader A start at crosses and move right;*

*Leader B and Leader C start at crosses and move left.*

### **Cantor**

As we share communion with each other, we'll sing number 8 in your books, *Oh wheat whose crushing was for bread*, number 8.

1 O wheat, whose crush-ing was for bread, O bread whose break-ing is for life,  
 2 O fruit whose crush-ing was for wine, O wine whose flow-ing is for blood,  
 3 O life whose crush-ing was for love, O love whose spend-ing was to death,

1 O life, your seem-ing end is seed, A seed for wheat, our bread and life.  
 2 O blood, your pour-ing out is life, Our life in you, O fruit-ful vine.  
 3 O death, your mourn-ing is our joy, Full joy and birth to last-ing life.

*Leaders put back chalices and paten then cover with palls*

## Post-Communion Prayer

### Presider

O Lord of life, save us from the spirit of apathy, abuse, lust for power and ranting, and grant to your servants, a spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love. May we see our own faults and not judge our sisters and brothers.

+ Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore.

### People

Amen

*NOTE: no offering or Polychronia*

### **Leader A**

As you leave, place your offerings for the work of the church in the baskets next to the basins on the welcome table.

Please sign the guest book and give us your email if you want to find out more about what's happening at St. Gregory's during Lent.

## **The Rite of Forgiveness**

### **Leader B**

Just as we greeted each other at the Peace, now we conclude by sharing with each other the assurance of God's forgiveness, and sending each other out to do the work of forgiveness in the world.

### **Leader C**

Say to each other "Forgive me a sinner" and respond, "God forgives you; forgive me a sinner," and the first will respond "God forgives you." Offer forgiveness to another, and on and on until all are forgiven, then come and gather around the table for the final song.

*Presider turns to someone (preferably the youngest person present) and demonstrates the Rite of Forgiveness.*

### **Presider**

Forgive me a sinner

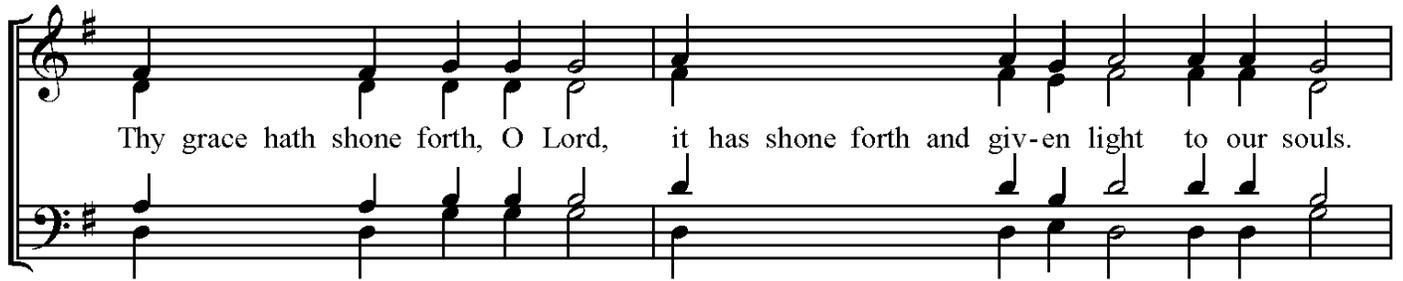
### **Recruit**

God forgives you; forgive me a sinner

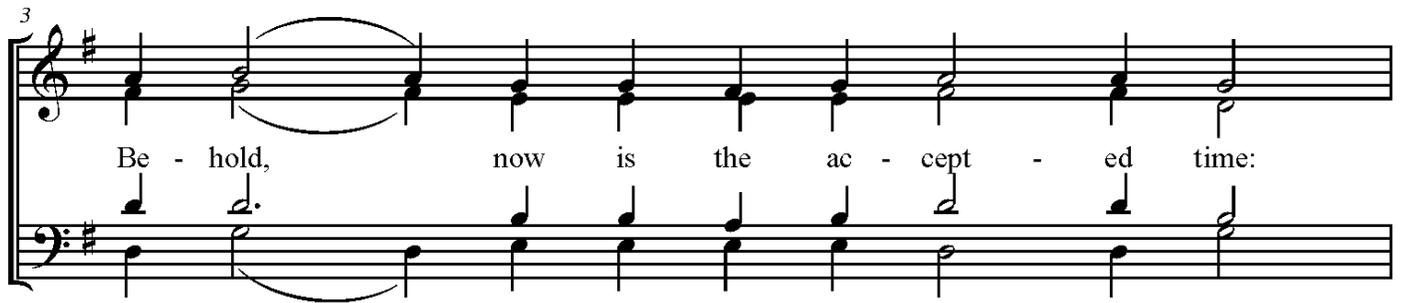
### **Presider**

God forgives you.

*Cantor during the rite, the quartet sings (or something):*



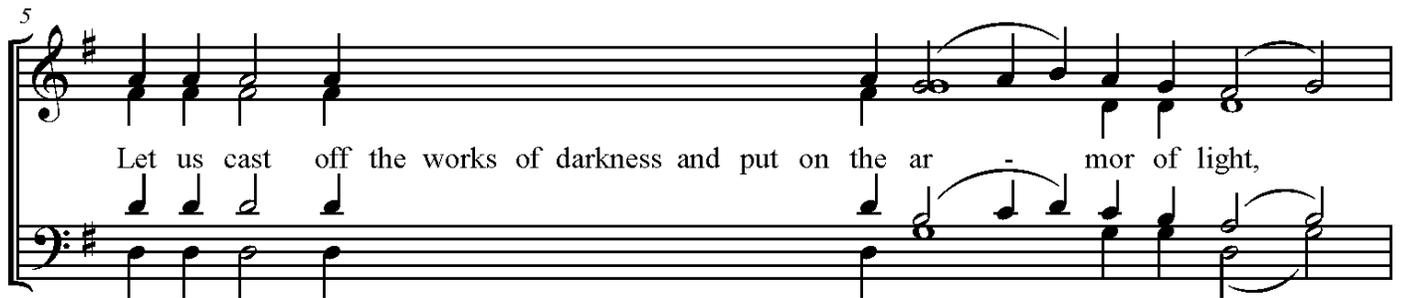
Thy grace hath shone forth, O Lord, it has shone forth and giv-en light to our souls.



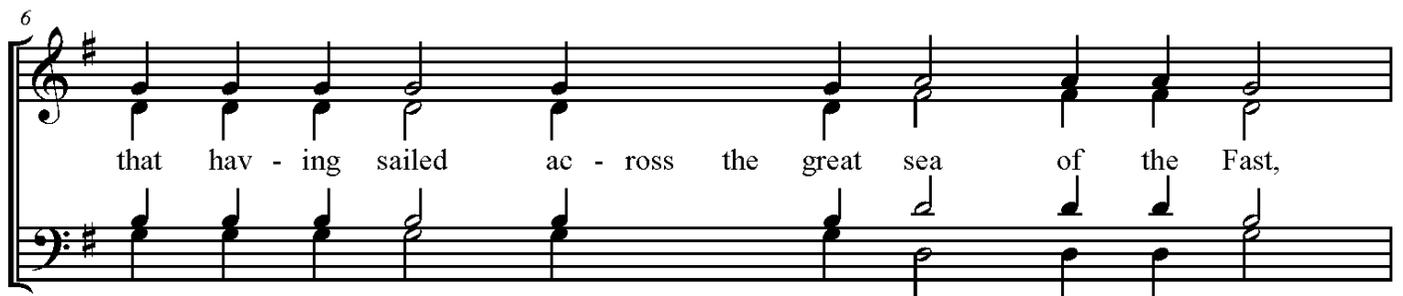
3  
Be - hold, now is the ac - cept - ed time:



4  
be - hold, now is the season of re - pen - - - tance.

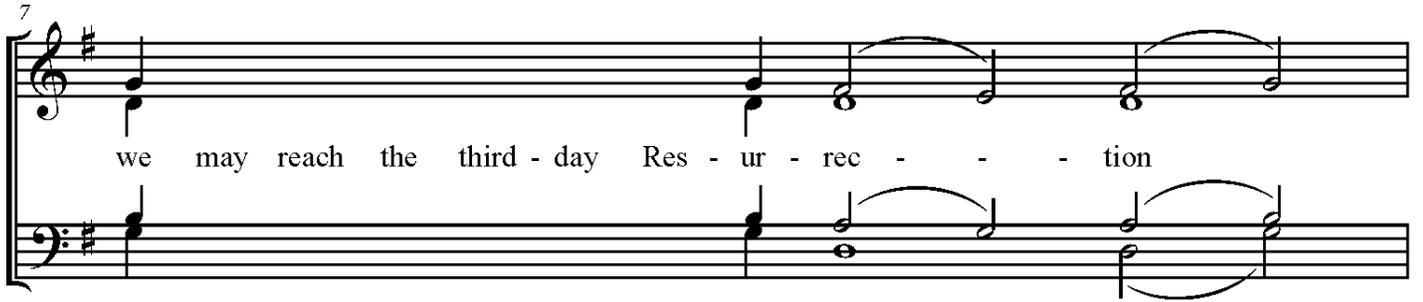


5  
Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the ar - - mor of light,



6  
that hav - ing sailed ac - ross the great sea of the Fast,

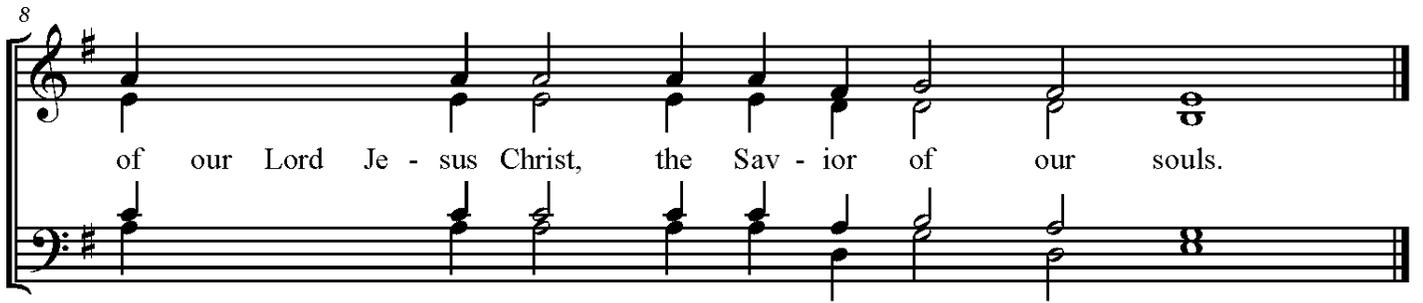
7



we may reach the third - day Res - ur - rec - - - tion

Musical notation for measure 7, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "we may reach the third - day Res - ur - rec - - - tion".

8



of our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior of our souls.

Musical notation for measure 8, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "of our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior of our souls.".

*When all have been forgiven:*

**Leaders**

**DRAW NEAR! DRAW NEAR!**

**Leader A**

We'll sing at Number 68 in your books *Lord you now have set your servant free*, Number 68.

Lord, you now have set your ser-vant free to go in peace as you have promised, For these

eyes of mine have seen the Savior whom you have pre - pared for all the

world to see: A Light to en - lighten the nations, and the glory of your peo-ple Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spirit: as it was in the be - ginning, is

now, and will be for ever. A - men.

**Leader B**

**LET US BLESS THE LORD!**

**People**

Thanks be to God!

**END.**