

**HELDERBERG REFORMED CHURCH**

**Joint Service with  
Altamont Reformed Church  
and St. John's Lutheran Church  
February 14, 2024  
7:00 P.M.**

**Ash Wednesday  
Rev. Matthew van Maastricht  
and Rev. Eric Reimer  
Rae Jean Teeter – Director of Music**

**THE APPROACH TO GOD**

**PRELUDE**

**VOTUM**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** From John 3:17; Ps. 46:1-3

Let us Worship God

God sent Christ into the world Not to condemn the world,  
But that the world might be saved through him.

**God's love endures forever.**

God is our refuge and strength, A present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear Though the earth should change,  
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
Though the waters roar and foam, Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God's love endures forever.**

**HYMN #208** "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?

Was it for sins that I have done, He suffered on the tree?  
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, And shut His glories in,  
When Christ, the great Redeemer died For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away – 'Tis all that I can do. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.  
You are compassionate beyond comparison, loving beyond imagination,  
and faithful beyond our betrayal.**

**Just as the psalmist declares, "our sin is ever before us."**

**We, too, admit our transgressions:  
we have become stained with wrongdoing,  
sacrificing the goodness of your love for the demise of this world.  
We have abandoned your law,**

**caring less for your creation and more for our own ambition.  
Wash us clean, God of mercies, and deliver us from bloodshed.  
Help us to hear your voice calling us back, remind us of your love bringing us home,  
and renew our spirits that we might believe the covenant again.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray in our hearts...**

(Silent reflection)

**Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** Romans 5:8

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

**SERMON**

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

**PRAYER**

**IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES**

(after the ashes have been imposed)

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 our Savior,

**Bring us with all your saints**

**To the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

**\*HYMN: #369 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

O Jesus, I have promised To serve thee to the end;  
Be thou forever near me, My Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle If thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me, The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear:  
My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee,  
That where thou art in glory, There shall thy servant be;  
And Jesus, I have promised To serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my Friend.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*All depart in silence.*