

Ash Wednesday



February 22, 2023

7:00 pm



302 N. Dunton Ave. | Arlington Heights, IL 60004 | (847) 255-5900

firstpresah.org | mail@firstpresah.org

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

PRELUDE

“Adagio”
from *Concerto in D Minor*

Antonio Vivaldi, arr. J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alex Lang

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

All: slow to anger and abounding in love.

LITANY FOR LENT

One: For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God’s promise.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh: “Repent, or in forty days you will perish.”

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

(Silence)

One: Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life.

For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose again for us, Jesus our Savior.

All: Amen.

♠ HYMN 165

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

ERHALT UNS, HERR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O god, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE 551

“Lord, Have Mercy”

LAND OF REST

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 11:1-9

Alex Lang

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:1-5

MEDITATION

“I Believe In God”

Alex Lang

HYMN 509

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

OFFERING

(The offering supports One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides disaster relief, self-development of communities, and hunger assistance. Please pick up a fish bank as you exit worship tonight. We will also receive One Great Hour of Sharing offerings on Palm Sunday.)

OFFERTORY

“And Can It Be?”

Dan Forrest

“And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain as interest in the Savior’s blood? Died for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me? He left His Father’s throne above, so free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam’s helpless race; ‘Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me. And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own. Amazing love, how can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me? Amazing love how can it be? Amazing love!”

Men’s Chorus

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(You may receive the sign of the cross in ashes either on your forehead or on your hand.)

UNISON PRAYER

Thank you, Gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| ✠ HYMN 516 | “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” | KINGDOM |
| ✠ BENEDICTION | | Alex Lang |
| ✠ POSTLUDE | “Prelude in C Major” | <i>J. S. Bach</i> |

✠ Please stand as you are able.

Preaching: Alex Lang

Pastor: Alex Lang

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Thank you for worshipping with us.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, Twitter, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

For worship in the Sanctuary hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today’s sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

 **Choose love.**  **Be the light.**  **Change the world.**