

*Welcome to Ash Wednesday
Worship at
Zion Lutheran Church*



Please gather in silence.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 6:15 pm

Be Thou My Vision

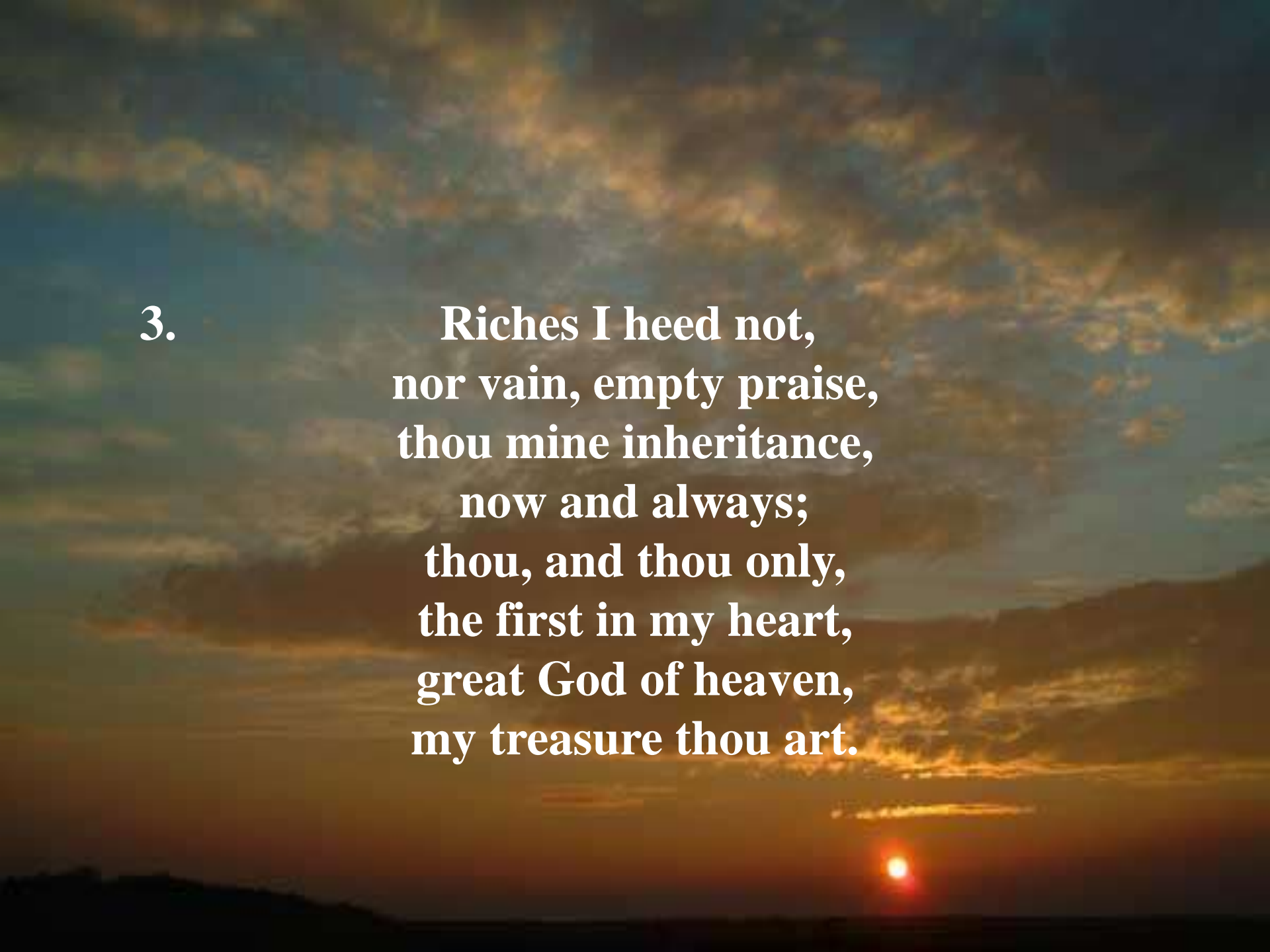
ELW #793

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931. Music: Irish traditional. Public Domain.


1. Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me,
save that thou art:
thou my best thought
both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

2.

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and
thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter,
and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward,
O pow'r of my pow'r.



3. Riches I heed not,
nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance,
now and always;
thou, and thou only,
the first in my heart,
great God of heaven,
my treasure thou art.



4. Light of my soul,
after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

Greeting

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

C: Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading, Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced
righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their
God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast
day,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a
bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the
hungry, and bring the homeless poor
into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your
own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the
dawn, and your healing shall spring
up quickly; your vindicator shall go
before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your
rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say,
here I am. If you remove the yoke from
among you, the pointing of the finger,
the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-17

L: ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to
your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot
out my offenses.

C: ²**Wash me through and through from my
wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before
me.

C: ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is
evil in your sight; so you are justified when you
speak and right in your judgment.**

L: ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

L: ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you
have broken may rejoice.**

L: ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

C: ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my
salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your
righteousness.**

L: ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I
would give it. You are not pleased with
burnt offering.**

L: ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you
will not despise.

Second Reading, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Holy Gospel according
to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

Jesus said to the disciples: 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.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

“The Heart’s Reward”

Invitation to Lent

5:00 to 6:00 pm- A light supper served between

5:30 to 6:15 pm- Wednesday Church School

6:15 pm- Guided conversation and worship around the table at in the Fellowship Hall.

Calendar and focus for the mid-week Lenten services:

- February 21 – Rejection Response (Luke 9:51-62)
- February 28 – Wanting to See Again (Luke 18:35-43)
- March 6 – The Man with No Friends (Luke 19:1-10)
- March 13 – Unbinding and Letting Go (John 11:17-44)
- March 20 – The Anointing (John 12:1-19)

Confession of Sin

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most holy and merciful God,

C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have shut our ears 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our neglect of human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable
thoughts towards our neighbors, and our
prejudice and contempt towards those who
differ from us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come
after us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart
from us.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

L: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Those who desire to receive ashes are invited to come forward in the same fashion as for communion. Ashes will be applied to the forehead of each person with the words:

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

You may reflect on Psalm 51 or Psalm 90 during this time.

Prayers of Intercession

Response after each petition:

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen**

Offering




We Give Thee but Thine Own


#686

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt. Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850. Public Domain.

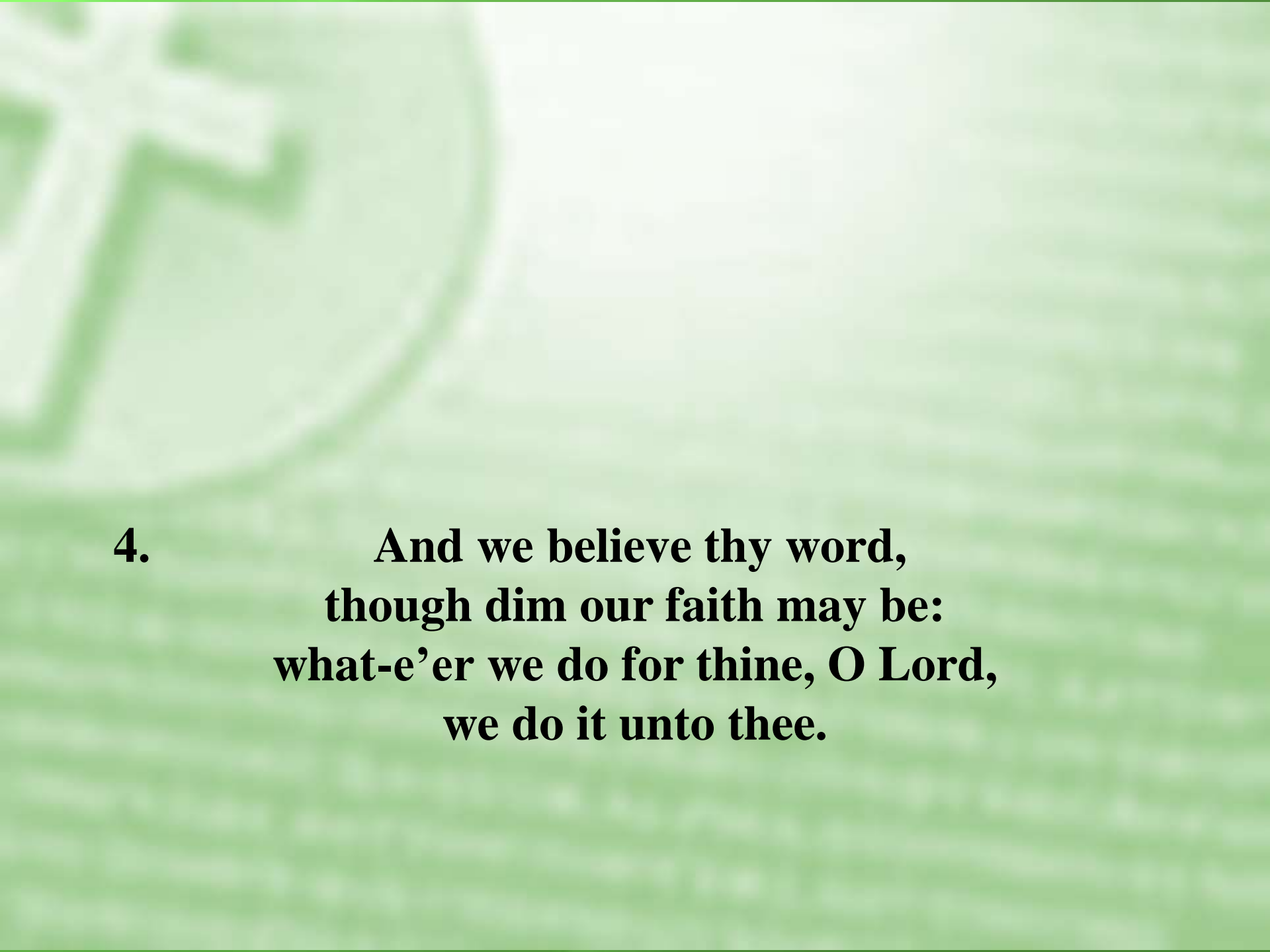
- 1. We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**



**2. May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first-fruits give.**



**3. The captive to release,
 to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace--
 it is a Christ-like thing.**



**4. And we believe thy word,
 though dim our faith may be:
what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord,
 we do it unto thee.**

The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

L: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Restore In Us, O God

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- 1. Restore in us, O God,
 the splendor of your love;
 renew your image in our hearts,
 and all our sins remove.**



2.

**O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.**



3.

**Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.**



**4. Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.**



Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Heartfully
serve in God's love.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please leave the sanctuary with quiet reverence.