

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



**March 5, 2025
12:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday**

GATHERING

Prelude

Forty Days and Forty Nights

C.P.E Bach

Call to Worship

God's love for us is abundant and steadfast.

We enter God's house with awe.

God will lead us in righteousness,

And make God's ways straight before us.

*Hymn 77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH

*Prayer of the Day

Jesus said, "Follow me."

And I said, let me get ready.

Jesus said, "follow me."

And I said, just one minute!

Jesus said, "Follow me."

And I said, I'll be there soon!

The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.

Jesus, forgive our delay. We want to follow you.

Turn our intentions into actions. Show us the way. Amen.

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

First Reading: Psalm 5:7-8, page 480

6:30 p.m. Anthem

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Create in me a clean heart, O God!.

*Those who are able may stand.

Second Reading: Luke 9:51-62, page 947

Sermon

Turning Point

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

***Psalm 51**

DUNDEE

1. Have mer - cy Lord, ac - cord - ing to the mea - sure of your love;
2. The fail - ings of my deeds and thoughts are ev - er in my sight;
3. In - to my se - cret heart send truth, let wis - dom in me grow;
4. A clean and up - right heart, O Lord, ex - change for mine of stone;
5. A con - trite heart is your de - sire, my of - fer - ing, the same;

blot out my sin, and from my heart all wick - ed - ness re - move.
re - lease me from the path of death, and set my course a - right.
O wash the e - vil from my hands, and make me pure as snow.
your Ho - ly Spir - it meld with mine, and leave me not a - lone.
my lips un - latch, my mouth en - gage your prais - es to pro - claim.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. One of the ministers will mark your forehead with ashes as a reminder that all of us will someday die, and as a sign that we trust in God's grace in Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Day

ST. FLAVIAN

*Charge and Blessing

All depart in silence.

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NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Paulo Santos

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium, on Facebook, and YouTube.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

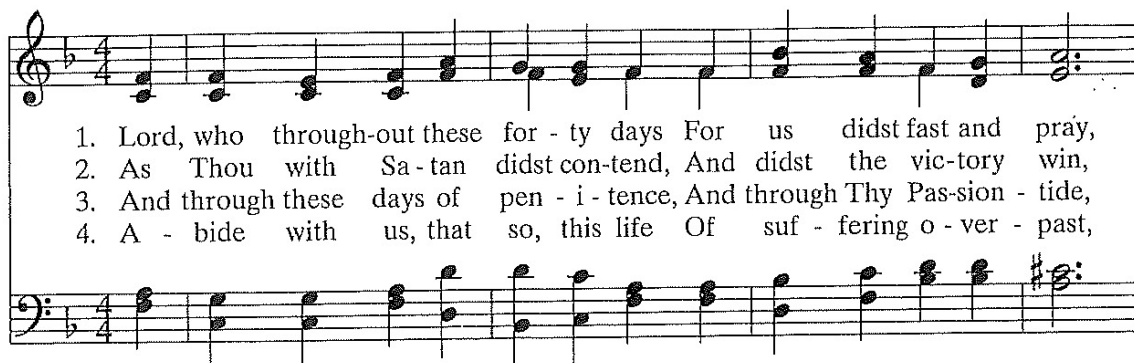
- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets

81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

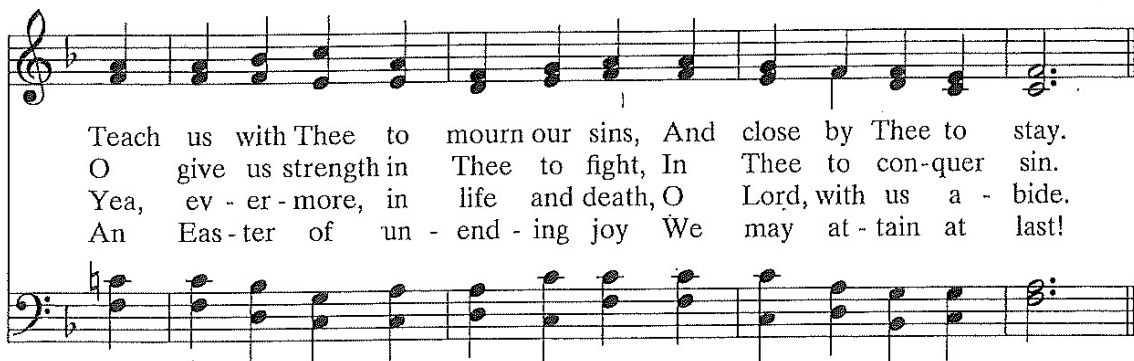
ST. FLAVIAN CM

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Day's Psalter, 1562



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, And didst the vic-tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas-sion - tide,
4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,



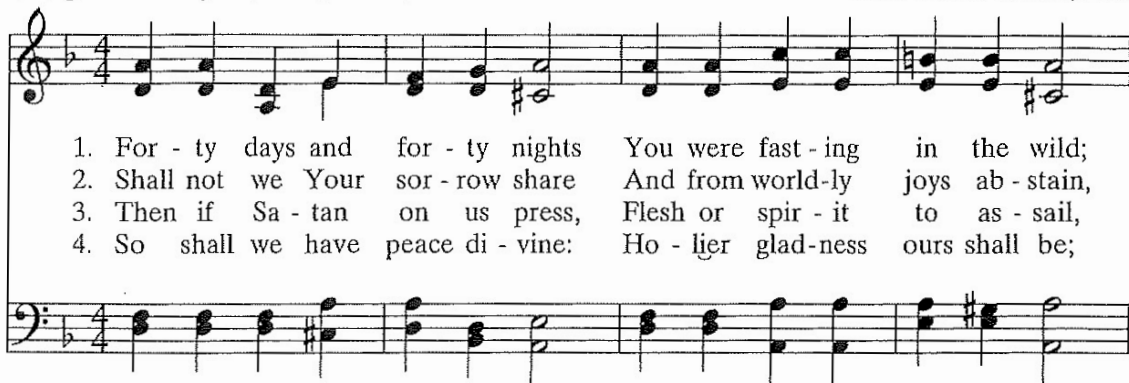
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con-quer sin.
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Forty Days and Forty Nights

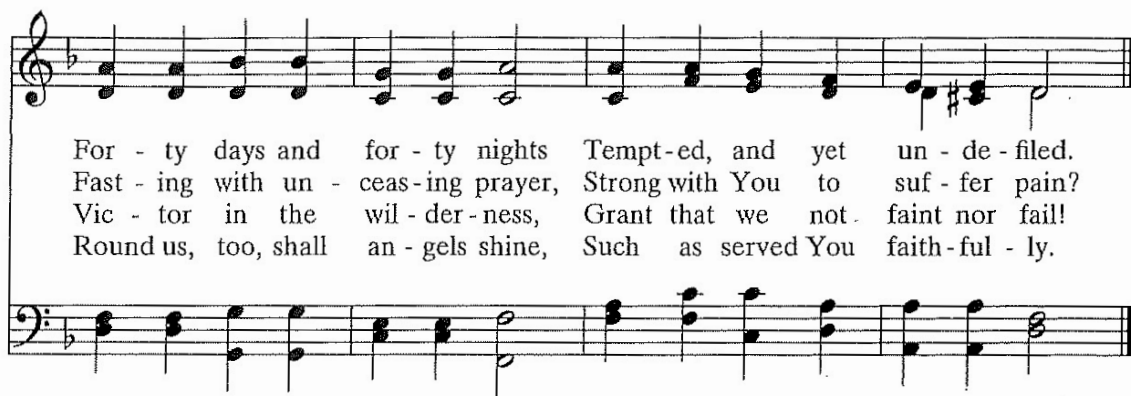
AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH 7.7.7

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Attr. Martin Herbst, 1676



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
 2. Shall not we Your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt-ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas-ing prayer, Strong with You to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant that we not faint nor fail!
 Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served You faith - ful - ly.

5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
 Ever constant by Your side;
 That with You we may appear
 At the eternal Eastertide.

♩=50-54