

February 21-22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND (u) PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP "LEAD ME LORD"

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
Make thy way plain before my face.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

- P** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
- C** Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "GUIDE ME EVER GREAT REDEEMER"

- 1** Guide me ever, great_ Re - deemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you_ are_ mighty;
hold me with your_ pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now_ and_ evermore.
- 3** When I tread the verge _of_ Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's_ de - struction,
land me safe on_ Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise_ for - evermore.

GREETING

- P** From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy; have mer - cy. O Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P **Let us pray together.**

G **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

(d)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The lesson begins:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

P **The Word of the Lord.**

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32:1-7 – RESPONSIVE

P **Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.**

C **Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

P **When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

C **For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

P **Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

C **Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.**

P **You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.**

(u)

ACCLAMATION:

**Return to the Lord, your_ God, for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

P **The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.**

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(d)

SERMON

(u)

SERMON RESPONSE "O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE"

O_ God, who gives us_ life and breath,

Who shapes us in_ the womb,

Who_ guards our lives from birth to death,

Then_ leads_ us from the tomb:

Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you,

Help us to know your_ Spirit still

Is_ mak – ing all things new.

APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(d)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A** Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

A brief silence.

- A** Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you that he was tempted just as we are when we're at our weakest! Thank you that he stands with us, and for us. Thank you that he dwells in us, through the worst temptations and struggles we face. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer
- A** Lord, forgive your Church when it falls into lukewarm worship, wayward teaching, fractured fellowship, stingy charity, and halfhearted witness. Forgive it when it condemns certain sinners, but re-brands its favorite sins as virtue. Help it to stand firm in your Word when it is tempted by sins of faithlessness. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer

A Forgive this congregation when we focus on the speck in another's eye, ignoring the log in our own. Forgive us when we seek our own will, not yours. Forgive us when we boast of ourselves, not the Cross of Christ. Fashion us into the image of Jesus, so others, seeing our good works, glorify you alone. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Strengthen us when we are tempted to sin. Warn and rebuke us, so we resist and repent. Guide us, so we feed on your Word and commit ourselves into your care. Humble us, so we rely only our Savior, who was in all things tempted as we are, yet without sin. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Lord, have mercy on all who are sick, injured, or handicapped; addicted, abused, or abandoned; despairing, frightened, or ashamed; frightened, grieving or dying. Especially we pray for: {List}. Deliver them from the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Restore them to health, hope, and fellowship with all who love them. Renew their faith in you, their Savior and Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Father, thank you for showing mercy to all who have died trusting in your promises. Keep us steadfast in faith. Forgive us when we give in to temptation. When the long Lent of this life is complete and the hour of death draws near, let the Cross of Christ sustain us in faith and hope. By his glorious Resurrection, raises us from our tombs. Through the Holy Spirit, breathe your life and love into us forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

- P** Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

OFFERING

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OFFERTORY "LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL"

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
And give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and

made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (SUNG)

**Holy, ho - ly, holy Lord_ God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth_ are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in_ the highest.

Blessed_ is he who comes_ in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in_ the highest_, hosanna in_ the highest.

- ☐ Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(SPOKEN)*

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; and 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(d)

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

(u)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "LORD DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING"

1 Lord, dismiss_ us_ with your bles - sing,
fill our hearts with_ joy and peace;
let us each_, your_ love posses - sing,
triumph in re - deeming grace.
Oh_, re - fresh us; oh_, re - fresh us,
Trav - 'ling_ through_ this_ wilderness.

3 Savior, when_ your_ love shall call_ us
from our struggling_ pilgrim way,
let no fear_ of_ death appall_ us,
glad your summons_ to obey.
May_ we_ ever, may_ we_ ever
Reign_ with_ you_ in_ endless day.

DISMISSAL

A Let us go forth in the name of the Lord,
G To know Christ, and to make Christ known.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Seek Ye First

Words and Music by
Karen Lafferty

VERSE

♩ = 120 C Csus Em F C F C

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and His right - eous -
 2. Man shall not live by bread a - lone but by ev - 'ry
 3. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, seek and ye shall

7 Dm7 G7 C Csus Em Em7 F C

ness, and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you-
 word that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God-
 find, knock and the door shall be o - pened un - to you-

13 F C F/C C G7sus G7 C

Al - le - - lu, al - le - lu - - - ia!
 Al - le - - lu, al - le - lu - - - ia!
 Al - le - - lu, al - le - lu - - - ia!