

Morning Worship
First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! (Psalm 47:1-2, 6-7).

Adoration

Opening Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (TH92)

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;
and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he, Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.*

*That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.*

Invocation

The 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 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.

Confession

Call to Confession

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:6-7).

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, when we review our past guilt and are conscious of our present unworthiness, we tremble to come to you, we whose foundation is in the dust, we who have defied your power, trampled upon your love, rendered ourselves worthy of eternal death. Our recovery cannot spring from any cause in us. We can destroy but cannot save ourselves. Yet you have laid help on One that is mighty, for there is mercy with you, and exceeding riches in your kindness through Jesus. May we always feel our need of him. Let your restored joy be our strength. May it keep us from lusting after the world, bear up heart and mind in loss of comforts, enliven us in the valley of death, work in us the image of the heavenly, and give us to enjoy the first fruits of spirituality, such as angels and departed saints know. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
- excerpted and adapted from *Valley of Vision*, "Kept by God"

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance

Assurance of Pardon

But as it is, [Christ] has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him (Hebrews 9:26b-28).

Thanksgiving

Offertory

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavn'ly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offertory Prayer

Petition and Intercession

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer for the Salvation of Others

Instruction

Hymn of Preparation

God, Be Merciful to Me

*God, be merciful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.*

*My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.*

*I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.*

*Broken, humbled to the dust by Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.*

*Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee, let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.*

*Sinners then shall learn from me, and return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.*

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Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 3:5-12

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 12:4-11

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Hebrews 12:4-17

Communion

Hymn of Preparation

Before the Throne of God Above

*Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great high priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is hidden in His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.*

*When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied to look on Him, and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.*

*Behold Him there the risen Lamb! My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.
One with my Lord I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Saviour and my God.
With Christ my Saviour and my God.*

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Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

Congregation: It is good and right to do so.

We welcome to Communion (also called The Lord's Table or The Eucharist) all baptized Christians who have received and are resting on Jesus alone for salvation, and are communing members of any church that faithfully proclaims the gospel. If that does not currently describe you, we invite you to participate by observing but not partaking of the elements – in part because of the warnings Scripture gives those who partake of the Supper without discerning its spiritual significance; but also because we don't want you to express something with your body that isn't true of your heart and mind, namely, that you're trusting in and depending on Jesus as your Lord and Savior. We invite you to take this time to consider what you've seen and heard in the worship service, including Jesus' love for sinners as it is portrayed in this meal. There's also a prayer below for those considering Christianity that you might wish to pray. If this raises questions or concerns, we welcome them and invite you to address them to our pastor or elders.

Prayer for those searching for truth: Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If you are real, please open my heart and mind to the truth of who you are and what you have done in your life, death, and resurrection. Give me faith to trust you for salvation and satisfaction, and to follow you as my Lord. Help me to see this as the only way to the life you promise and for which I long. Amen.

Prayer for Christians: Lord, you have prepared for me a feast; and though I am unworthy to sit down as a guest, I rest on the merits of Jesus, and come clothed in his righteousness. While I see the bread and the cup, may I ponder why Jesus died and hear him say, "I gave my life to purchase yours, presented myself as an offering to satisfy divine justice, shed my blood to blot out your guilt, opened my side to make you clean, endured your curses to set you free." May I obey, extend the hand, take the bread, receive the cup, eat and drink, testify before all that I gladly receive Jesus to be my life, strength, nourishment, joy, delight. In the Supper give me assurance of pardon, adoption, life, and glory. As the outward elements nourish my body, may your Spirit invigorate my soul, until that day when I hunger and thirst no more, and sit with Jesus at his heavenly feast. Amen.

- excerpted and adapted from *Valley of Vision*, "The Lord's Supper"

Charge and Blessing

Closing Hymn

*I will hope in the Father, filled with bountiful love
forming heaven and nature, feeding life from above.*

Who can fathom his greatness and his thundering might?

Yet I'm safe in his arms now, for I am his delight.

Doxology Creed

*What a wonder that Jesus, came to heal and to save,
bearing sin and its suff'ring to the sting of the grave.
Then he rose up in vict'ry, he arose to the sky.
Now he reigns till he comes again, where the joy never dies.*

*Chorus 1: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above all you heav'nly hosts.*

*What a gift of the Spirit, sent to help and assure,
praying for me with groanings, how I need every word.
Giving life to a stone heart, giving life to the church.
Now the pow'r of redemption breathing heaven on earth.*

*Chorus 2: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above all you heav'nly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

*Bridge: I believe, believe, O triune God of love.
I believe, believe, you are merciful and just.
I believe, your redemption, I believe that death will die,
and I will see resurrection unto everlasting life.
You are the alpha, the omega, beginning and the end.
With all creation we're yearning, Oh Yahweh come again.
Yours is the kingdom and the wisdom, and the power evermore.
Yours is the beauty and the glory, we will endlessly adore.*

You are holy, holy, holy, holy. You are holy, holy, holy, holy. Chorus 2

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Benediction