

## First Sunday in Lent

February 21 & 22, 2026

### Introduction to the day

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Blessed be God  
who is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and rich in love,  
God does not treat us as our sins deserve  
nor punish us according to our guilt,  
but looks upon us in compassion,  
forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Therefore, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection*

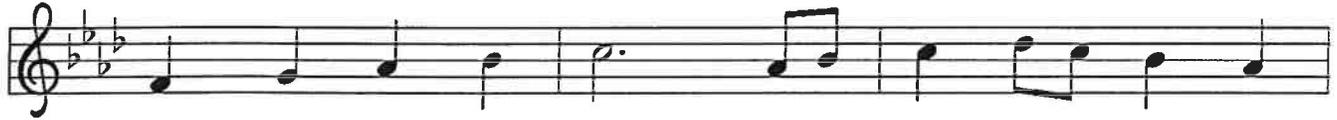
Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone, have we sinned.**  
**In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.**  
**Create in us a new heart, and give us a steadfast spirit.**  
**Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.**

As tender as parent to child,  
so gentle is God with you.  
As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for you.  
As far as east is from west,  
so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.  
**Blessed be God forever.**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## GREETING

Christ has called us to this place,  
 gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

**We are followers of Christ  
 who seek to hear the Word,  
 live the Word, and share the Word.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

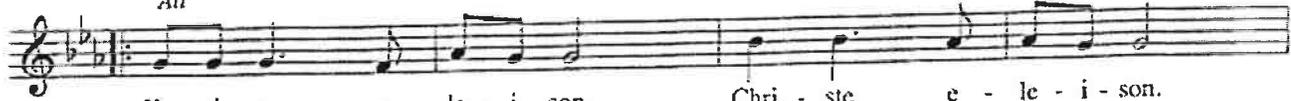
# KYRIE

*Assisting Minister*



In - peace, let us pray to the Lord:

*All*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

*To Bids  
Last time to Conclusion*

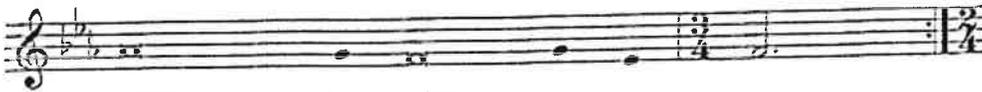


Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

*Assisting Minister  
freely*



1. For peace be - tween nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the  
2. For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and  
3. For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, a



healing of cre - ation,  
all who long for God, let us pray.  
bandoned or a - fraid,

**Conclusion**

*Assisting Minister*

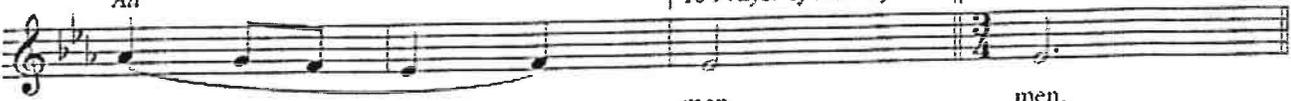


Help, save, com - fort and de - fend us, O God.

*All*

*To Prayer of the Day*

*To Evening Hymn of Praise*



A - - - - - men. men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Leah Wilson    8:30 Chancel Choir    11:00 Praise Team

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."  
<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you<sup>1</sup> with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Or*  
*During Lent*

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. O Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

**Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pr. Sharon

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*When We Are Tested*

(ACS 922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

### OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through your abundant goodness, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for . . .*

Mel Satnan, Stephany Sanborn, Doug Knutson, Lacey Mescher, Dawn Jensen, Alan Meilike, Pam S., Pr. Hering, Andy Besco, Patricia Minchin, Edie Goodwin, John Myre, John Robbins, Neena Kraemer-Solberg, Sandi Mitchem

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## **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 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.**

## **BLESSING**

As you go on your way may Christ go with you,

May he go before you to show you the way;

May he go behind you to encourage you,

Beside you to befriend you,

Above you to watch over,

Within you to give you peace.

In the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.