

**The First Sunday in Lent**  
**February 22, 2026**      **10:15 a.m.**



*Almighty God, help us who are assaulted  
by many temptations.  
As you know the weakness of each of us,  
let each one find you mighty to save.  
Amen.*

**Welcome to Church of the Ascension**

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to  
**Connect** with God and one another,  
**Grow** in faith and understanding, and  
**Serve** the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all  
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded**

# The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

## Welcome

### Prelude

“Lord, We Come to You”

1. We come to you on this day  
With faith we kneel down to pray  
Wash us from our guilt and  
free us from our sins  
Teach us to love you, O Lord.

2. We open our hearts  
and we praise you, Lord.  
By your cross you save the world  
Forgive us our sins,  
have mercy on us  
Teach us to love you, O Lord.

### ✠ Processional Hymn      “Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days”      Hymnal #142

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins  
and close by thee to stay.

4. And through these days of penitence,  
and through thy Passiontide,  
yea, evermore, in life and death,  
Jesus! with us abide.

2. As thou with Satan didst contend  
and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
in thee to conquer sin.

5. Abide with us, that so, this life  
of suffering overpast,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last!

3. As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy Word.

Music: St. Flavian, harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)  
Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898)

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:*      **His mercy endures for ever.**

### A Litany of Penitence

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins.

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*The Celebrant continue:* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf 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. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
**Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Celebrant:* The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Kyrie Eleison

"Kyrie #10"

J. Berthier

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -  
Chri - ste, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son; Chris -  
Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -

5  
e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.  
te, Chris - te, e - le - i - son.  
e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

## The Collect

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

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 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." 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'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 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.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 32**

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 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."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **The Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-19**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. 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 free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. 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. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **✠ Sequence Song**

You are my hiding place  
You always fill my heart  
With songs of deliverance  
Whenever I am afraid  
I will trust in You

### **"You Are My Hiding Place"**

I will trust in You  
Let the weak say I am strong  
In the strength of the Lord

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### **The Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is 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; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### Sermon

The Rev. Dina van Klaveren

### ✠ The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

*Celebrant:* In this holy season of self-examination and repentance, as we journey with Christ into the wilderness, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Intercessor:* For the Church throughout the world, that in this Lenten season we may resist the temptations of power, fear, and self-sufficiency, and learn again to trust in God alone;

for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all clergy and lay ministers; that the Church may faithfully proclaim the Good News in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation and for all nations; for Donald our President, for Congress and the courts, for state and local leaders; that those entrusted with authority may seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For a world wounded by violence, disaster, and division; for those who live in fear; and for the healing of creation itself; that we may learn to depend not on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Lianne, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew, Mary, Steve, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Cathy, Reed, Cheryl, Bob, and those we now name, either silently or aloud (pause); that Christ, who was tested in every way yet without sin, may strengthen and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the lonely, the hungry, and the homeless; that in denying ourselves this Lent we may grow in compassion and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; for the quiet blessings of daily life; that we may recognize God's faithful presence even in the wilderness seasons of our lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; that they may rest in peace and rise in glory, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Gracious God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness and overcame the tempter: strengthen us in our Lenten discipline, sustain us in our weakness, and bring us at last to the joy of Easter; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

### **Birthday and Anniversary Prayer**

**O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

## The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.



### Offertory

“Before the Throne of God Above”

1. Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and 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 written on His heart  
I know that while in heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

2. When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior 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

4. I bow before the cross of Christ and marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed to make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know, but I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low and poured on me His glorious love  
And poured on me His glorious love

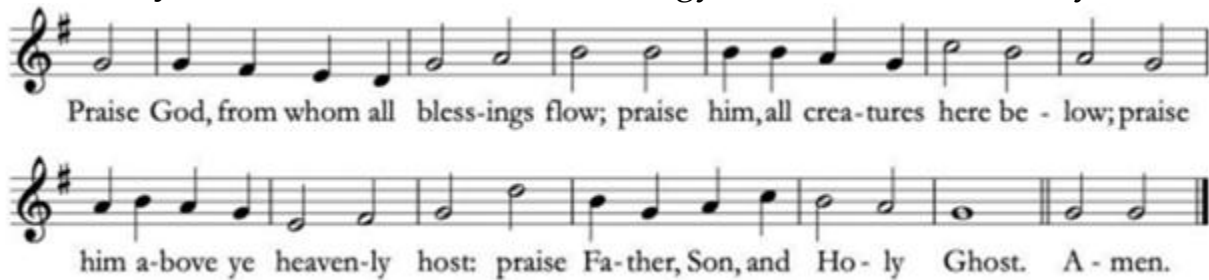
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### ✠ Presentation Hymn

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #380, v. 3



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Old 100th

### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and  
 Bless - ed is  
 earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### Memorial Acclamation

Christ has di - ed Christ - is ri - sen Christ will come a - gain

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints into the joy

of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of Bread**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

**Fraction Anthem**

Agnus Dei - "Jesus, Lamb of God"

Hymnal #S164



The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

### **The Communion of the People**

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## Communion Music

### “Worthy the Lamb”

Words and Music: R. Gillard

1. Worthy the Lamb that was slain for us  
Worthy, worthy the Lamb *(Repeat)*

3. Holy the Lamb that was slain for us.  
Holy, holy the Lamb *(Repeat)*

2. Blessed the Lamb that was slain for us  
Blessed, blessed the Lamb *(Repeat)*

4. Mighty the Lamb that was slain for us.  
Mighty, mighty the Lamb *(Repeat)*

5. Jesus the Lamb that was slain for us  
Jesus, Jesus the Lamb *(Repeat)*

## ✠ Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

*Celebrant:* With whom will you share this communion?

*Lay Eucharistic Visitors say the names of those that they will visit.*

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

**We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

## The Prayer Over The People

*During the season of Lent, in place of a final blessing, the presider offers a Prayer over the People.*

Let us bow before the Lord.

*The people bow.* Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

### “The Glory of These Forty Days”

Hymnal #143

1. The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.

4. Then grant us, Lord, like Him to be  
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;  
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,  
and give us joy to see thy face.

2. Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.

5. O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
to thee be every prayer addressed,  
who art in three-fold Name adored,  
from age to age, the only Lord.

3. O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
to thee be every prayer addressed,  
who art in three-fold Name adored,  
from age to age, the only Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt.  
Music: *Erhalt uns Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>February 22</b>	<b>March 1</b>
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Adult Ensemble	Praise Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	Elaine Bind	Jim Fariss
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	<i>1 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Jeanne Cox	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
Chalicians	Susan Considine, <i>3 needed</i>	Jim Fariss, <i>3 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Allison Lord

**February Altar Guild:**

Ellen Anderson, Dorothy Carpenter, Jennie Grabill, Lisa Jamison, Melissa Leahy

**Attendance – February 15**

8:00 am – 30    10:15 am    In-person – 49    YouTube – 6    Facebook – 4    **Total: 89**

**Readings for Next Sunday: Second Sunday in Lent - A**

Genesis 12:1-4a    Psalm 121    Romans 4:1-5, 13-17    John 3:1-17

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The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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