

The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026 **8:00 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.*

✠ *Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

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

A Litany of Penitence *Standing or kneeling as you are able*

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins.

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to thee 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 continues: We have not loved thee 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 thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

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

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

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

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **We confess to thee, 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 thy creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let thy anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

Bring us with all thy 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.**

*Celebrant: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One. People: **Have mercy upon us.***

The Collect

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for eve. **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.**

✠The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon 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 with thy spirit.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

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

Announcements

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away! *Psalm 32:1*

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

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

✠ **At the Presentation**

All things come of thee, O Lord, **and of thine own have we given thee.**



The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

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

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son

Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

Breaking of the Bread

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is

always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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.

Communion: *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail.*

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. 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.

Bow down before the Lord.

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

✠The Dismissal:

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants	February 22	March 1
Usher	Don and Janice Hobart	1 needed
Lector	Mary Lou Berg	Angela Chmar
Acolyte	Beverly Baker	Jennie Grabill

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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