

# The First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)  
Knowing • Loving • Serving  
God + Neighbor

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## Silence in Lent

Good morning. As we begin Lent today, and continuing through the five Sundays of Lent into Holy Week, we invite silence in church as we gather. Keeping silence signals both an intentional withdrawal from the racket and churn of the wider world and a willingness to open space for prayers — our own and those of congregants sitting near us.

On this first Sunday of Lent, we begin worship with the Great Litany. With portions dating as early as the fifth century in Rome, the Anglican Great Litany we use today is largely the work of English Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, who created it in 1544 at the request of Henry VIII. It is intended to be prayed in procession. The full text of the Litany may be found on page 148 of *The Book of Common Prayer*, located in the rack of your pew.

## The Word of God

*Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.*

## The Great Litany

*Officiant*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

*Officiant*

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

*People*

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

*Officiant* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*People* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*Officiant*

*People*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

*Officiant*

*People*

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

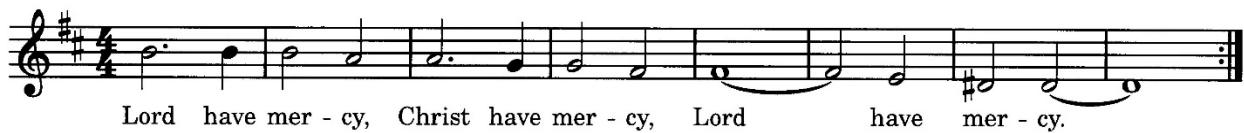
*Officiant*

*People*

O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

## The Kyrie (*sung 3 times*)

John Bell



*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant*      Bless the Lord who forgives our sins and redeems us for service.  
*People*      **God's mercy endures forever.**

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
*People:*      **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant:*      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.**

*Please be seated for the scripture appointed.*

## The Lessons

### A reading from the Book of Genesis (2:15-17; 3:1-7)

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.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 32 (Prayed responsibly, by half verse)**

- 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.**

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (5:12-19)**

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.

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

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the gospel.*

**The Sequence Hymn 143 The glory of these forty days** *Erhalt uns, Herr*

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

#### **Matthew 4:1-11**

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.

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

#### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

*Please stand as you are able for the creed; you may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.*

#### **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Concluding Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

### **The Greeting and Announcements**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **The Offertory**

*Come Thou and With Us Dwell*

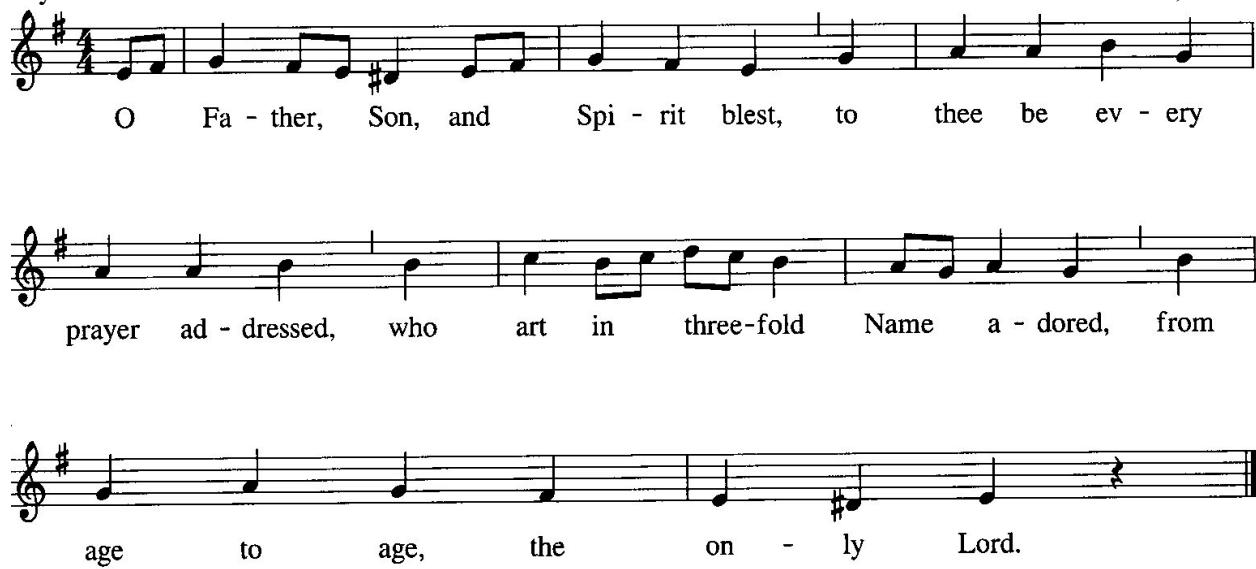
William Byrd

My faults, O Christ, do I confess and do thy mercy crave.  
O come thou now to wash my sins; O come my soul to save.  
Let then the brightness of thy birth the clouds of sin expel.  
Thou art the hope of all the world; come thou and with us dwell.  
Then shall my tongue forever sing due praises to thy name.  
Thy only wish is that we be still thankful for the same.  
To thee, the Father, and the Spirit of grace be praise for aye.  
Sing and rejoice, and God above do magnify alway.

*Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.*

### Hymn 143

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every  
prayer ad-dressed, who art in three-fold Name a-dored, from  
age to age, the on - ly Lord.

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

### The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

## The Sanctus

John Bell

(cantor)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, \_\_\_\_\_  
Bless - ed is the one who comes \_\_\_\_\_

(all)

[glo - ry] Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Bless - ed is the

God of pow'r and might,  
in the name of the Lord!

ho - ly Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ God of pow'r and  
one who comes \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the

heav - en and earth are full,  
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

might, hea - ven and  
Lord! Ho - san - na

are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

earth are full, \_\_\_\_\_  
in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_  
are full of your  
Ho - san - na in the

Ho - san - na in the high - est!

high - est! Ho - san - na in the

Ho - san - na in the high - est! In the high - est!

high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*You may remain standing, sit or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic prayer.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”*

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
**We celebrate his death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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 the Bread**

**Agnus Dei**

John Bell

(cantor)

1&2 Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the  
 3 Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the  
 [on us.] 1&2 Lamb of God you take a-way the  
 3 Lamb of God you take a-way the  
 peace.

world, world, have grant mer - cy on us.  
 sin sin of the world, have grant mer - cy

(v.3 only) Grant us your peace.  
 (v.3 only) Grant us your peace.

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.

### The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

*All are welcome to receive communion. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please make your needs known to the person serving you.*

## The Communion Hymns

Hymn 147 Now let us all with one accord

*Bourbon*

Hymn LEVAS 188 When peace, like a river

Philip P. Bliss

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

Blessed be God who calls us together.

**Praise to God who makes us one people.**

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

**Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

**Praise to God who is revealed as love.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.**

**Our hands were empty, and you filled them.**

## The Sending (*when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits*)

*Celebrant:* In the name of this congregation, we 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.

*People:* We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.

## The Blessing

**The Closing Hymn 688 A mighty fortress is our God**

*Ein feste Burg*

**The Dismissal**

*Deacon*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude**

*Ein fest Burg* (original rhythm)

<i>Celebrant and Preacher</i>	The Rev. Patrick C. Ward
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Joan Kirchner
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Cynthia Murray, Meg Nemitz
<i>Readers</i>	Rich Gregory, Kate Paradise
<i>Ushers</i>	Mary Anne Bragdon, Phil Suraci
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jean Gatzkiewicz
<i>Audio/Video</i>	Jennifer Marlin

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Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.