

First Sunday of Lent
February 26, 2023
10:00 a.m.
In person and streamed on Zoom



Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you. If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you. If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all figured out. And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace. So let us pray together:

Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God.

Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved! I am loved!

I am held in grace! I am held in grace!

I belong to God. I belong to God. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days ~ ELW 319*

Greeting

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 and Hymn of Praise



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you


And also with you

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.**

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.

Psalm 32



Mer - cy em - bra - ces those who trust in the LORD.

Gospel Reading 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.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you O Lord

... The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn Of the Day Who will you listen to? ~ Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art

The voi - ces from the past That
So - ci - e - ty de - mands We
A rush - ing flood of hate In

ech - o through our minds Like
al - ways strive for more Ac -
news we of - ten see Con -

noi - sy ghosts haunt and har - ass With
- cum - u - lat - ing wealth and land And
- ceals God's king - dom in a great Ca -

words un - kind Who will we lis - ten to? Lies
leave the poor Who will we lis - ten to? The
- co - pho - ny Who will we lis - ten to? The

that bind and a - base? Or God who coun - ters
temp ter's jea - lou - sy? Or God's pro - vis - ion
cha - os all a - round? Or God's dream of a

words un - true With words of grace?
and pur - suit Of e - qui - ty?
world made new Where love a - bounds?

Affirmation of Faith

In a world full of noise, **we believe that God is speaking.**
In a world full of chaos, **we believe that God is singing.**
In a world full of temptation, **we believe that God is healing.**

Church, who will you listen to?

We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.

Church, what will you listen for?

We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit, for the laughter of children, for the sound of open doors, and for God’s voice, who calls us beloved. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*Each petition ends with the words, Merciful God,
and the congregation responds, **receive our prayer.***

Musical Offering

*What Wonderful Love Is This ~ arr. Kevin McChesney
(Hallelujah Ringers)*

Offertory Song

Return to God ~ Gather #389 (refrain only, 2x)

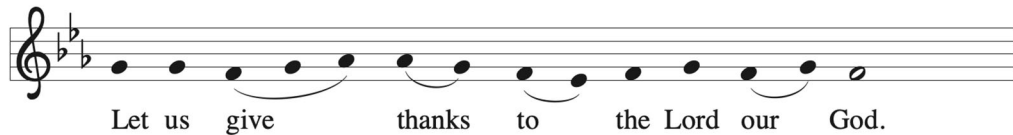
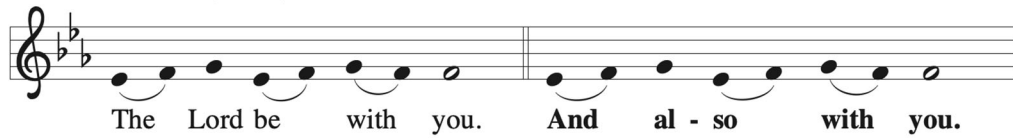


Re-turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

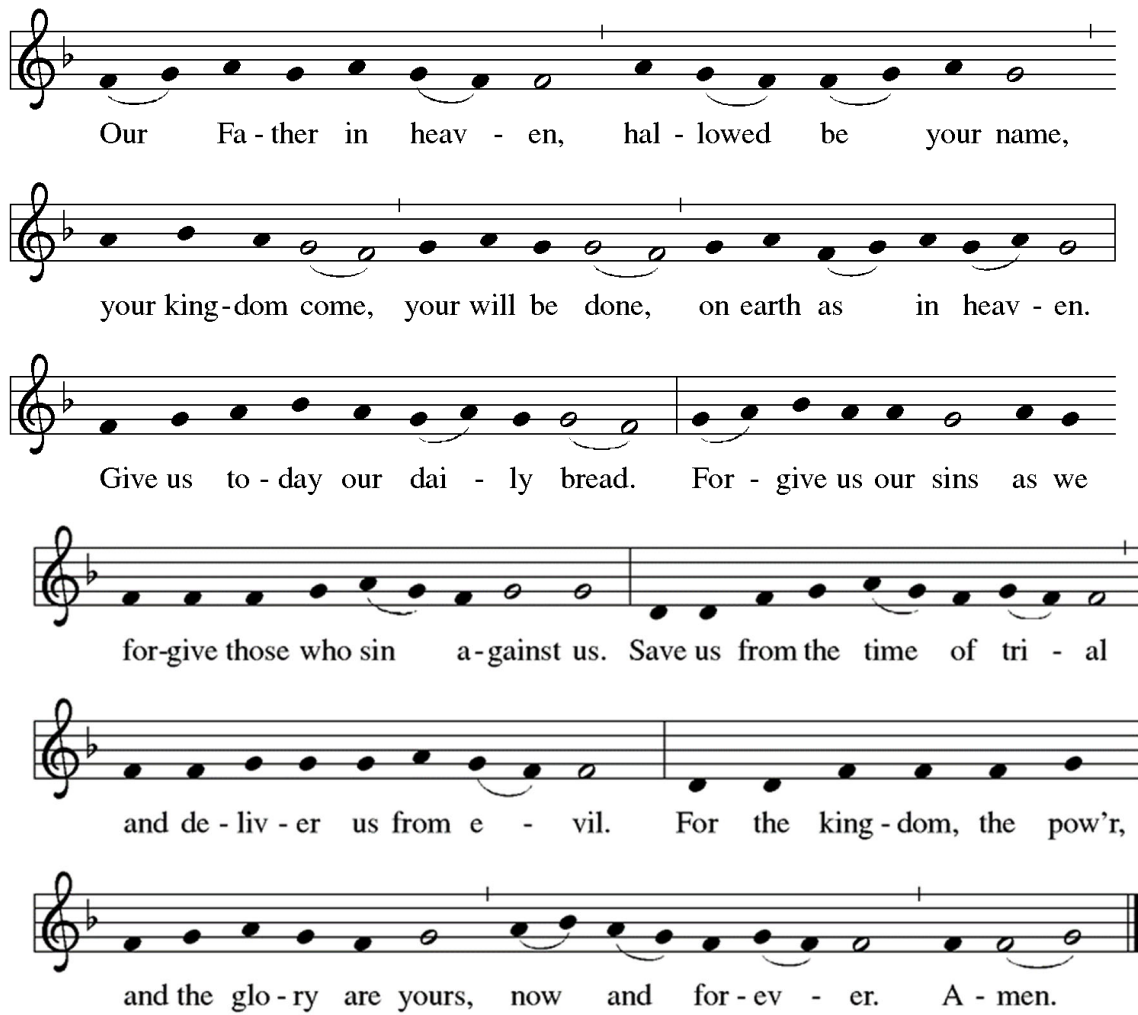
The Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right ... and join their unending hymn



Blessed are you, God of the universe . . .
in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray . . .



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Holy Communion

You are beloved of God, and this meal is for you. Come forward to the altar rail and stand or kneel to receive communion. The bread is gluten-free and there is wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

When We Are Tested ~ ACS 922

Prayer

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

Blessing

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.
 Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass.
 Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.
 As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.
 In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Bless Now, O God, The Journey ~ ELW 326

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God

Thanks be to God