

**Sunday Worship Service– February 22, 2026**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**ELWB (red book) – Holy Communion – Setting 8 (p.184-192)**

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement**

**Introduction\***

On this first Sunday in Lent, a common theme that we will hear arising throughout the 3 Bible readings is temptation. However, vulnerability also emerges as an important theme. In the gospel reading we will hear about Jesus' vulnerability in the wilderness that leads to temptation from the devil. Yet in our most vulnerable situations, God's grace and faithful love strengthen and sustain us, covering our vulnerability more abundantly than any fig leaves every could.

**Lenten Candle Liturgy<sup>1</sup>**

It is the first Sunday in Lent – the season for journeys of the heart. Now the time of reflection and stillness is upon us. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly. Be still. Listen. We are entering a holy time.

The Lenten candles have been lit, but over the next six weeks the light will slowly fade into darkness. For we are retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal and suffering and death.

We do this not to be morbid, but because in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, God is revealed – in the amazing transformation of death into life, in endings transformed into beginnings, and in dead-ends that become a source for new possibilities.

This is the sacred center of our faith – the truth made manifest in Jesus Christ – that God is in each and every one of us, quietly transforming us and the world. In his pain and suffering, Jesus speaks to every pain and loss you have endured and offers you the promise of transformation. It's an old story, but it still has the power to reveal, to heal, and to redeem.

Jesus is at the heart of our faith, in the depth of our souls. He is waiting for us, inviting us to leave ordinary time and follow along with him on the journey that brought him to the Cross. Listen in silence, for Jesus is calling you. (*Silence*)

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Andrew Schwartz

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world.

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession\***

Holy One, we do not always face temptation well. We settle for loaves of bread when our souls long for bread that does not perish. We put you to the test, seeking signs of your favor, when we should “be still” and rest in the knowledge that you are God. We place our trust in leaders who make promise they cannot deliver, when we should be putting our faith in you. Forgive us, O God, and help us be found worthy of your calling, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### **Words of Forgiveness**

The abundance of God's grace is freely given to you this day. God also lives in us. Receive this gift, with joy and thanksgiving, praising God for the new life that is yours, knowing that you are forgiven in the name of + the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **#504 Gathering Hymn “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (v.1-2, 4)**

1. **A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**
2. **No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**
4. **God’s Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.**

## The kingdom's ours forever!

### p. 184 **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.**

### #152 *Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

## Sacrament of Baptism

### Prayer of the Day\*

Faithful traveler, **walk with us, as we journey with Christ through the season of Lent; help us overcome the temptations we face each and every day. Save us from the time of trial, and send your angels to minister to us in times of weakness. Raise us to newness of life, through the gift of your Spirit and the love of your Son. Amen.**

### Scripture 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.*

God took the human and settled the human in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!"

The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that God had made. The snake asked the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.' "

The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good

and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to the man, who was with her, and he ate it. Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

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

### **Scripture 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.*

You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we’re in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn’t sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man’s sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God’s gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There’s no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man’s wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, absolute life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one person Jesus Christ provides?

Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, Jesus got us into life! One person, Adam, said no to God and put many people in the wrong;

one person, Jesus, said yes to God and put many in the right.

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

p.189 **Gospel Acclamation for Lent**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11**

*In the gospel reading from Matthew we hear that Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, Jesus endures the testing of the evil one.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*"

After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"

Jesus replied, "Again it's written, *Don't test the Lord your God.*"

Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me."

Jesus responded, "Go away, Satan, because it's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*" The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

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

## Sermon

### #319 Hymn of the Day *“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

1. **O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**
2. **You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God’s eternal word.**
3. **Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God’s love.**
4. **Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven’s praise.**

### Prayers of Intercession<sup>2</sup>

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. Prayer petitions will end with “Hear us, O God” and the congregation responds by praying **“Your mercy is great.”**

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. Send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, cancer, or mental anguish. Surround with peace those living with dementia and their caregivers. Comfort the dying and those who grieve.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts/2026-2-22/0>

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.**

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

## Sharing of the Peace

### Offertory Prayer\*

Holy One, as we provide loaves of bread for those who hunger, may we be living bread as well, that our offerings may feed the spirit as well as the body; as we seek to bring justice to our world, may we embody faith in your righteous love, that the world may know the source of their hope. Amen.

### p.190 Great Thanksgiving

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 a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you.

You invite us to return to you with all our hearts and live with joy. Renew our enthusiasm in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to all of us, your beloved children. An so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join your unending hymn:<sup>3</sup>

p.190 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted by Rev Lynn Robertson from *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, p.22A-22D

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer D – The Season of Lent<sup>4</sup>**

Holy God, our living water and gracious guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we give you thanks.  
You led your people Israel through the desert,  
And provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert, pouring his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,  
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the covenant in my blood,  
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all gathered for this meal of love and forgiveness.  
Strengthen us that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through Christ all glory and honour is yours, gracious God,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

#### p.191 **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted by Rev Lynn Robertson from *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, p.68

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

p.191 *Lamb of God*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

### **#613 Communion Hymn “Thy Holy Wings”**

1. **Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev’ry moment be lived within thy grace.**
2. **Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**
3. **Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah’s cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

### **Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten journey: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our giving, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

### **#808 Sending Hymn “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” (v.1-4)**

1. **Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I’ll tell ev’rybody about you wherever I go:  
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.**

- Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
2. **Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**
  3. **As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.  
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**
  4. **I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.  
And with all of the fam'ly you saved by your love,  
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

May the Lord bless you and keep you  
 May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 May the Lord look upon you with favour  
 and + give you peace. Amen.

### **Sending**

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **Sources:**

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB) and adapted for inclusive language.

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