

# First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026



*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*



**ZION**  
Ministries Under the Cross

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# Welcome to Zion!

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***“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love...”***

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

## Get Connected at Zion

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The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

## Children in Worship

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Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

## Giving

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We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



## Livestreaming

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Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

## We Gather

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### CONFESSiON & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## ELW Hymn #238

## The Great Litany

## APOSTOLIC 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

## ELW Hymn #157

*The assembly joins with the refrain, and the Minister sings the verses.*

## **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

Let us pray together...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.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## We Hear & Respond to God's Word

## **FIRST READING**

## Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## SECOND READING

## Romans 5:12-19

...Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

# GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

*Before the reading:* The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn #504

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

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

## OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #320

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Let us pray together...**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## We Feast at the Lord’s Table

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## THE 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be your  
name, hal - low - ed be your name. Your king - dom come, your  
will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our  
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for - give those who sin a -  
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from  
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the  
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for  
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

## SHARING THE MEAL

*During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.  
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.*

# We Are Sent into the World

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## BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Hymn #325

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Walk with others as Christ walks with you. **Thanks be to God!**

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# Today's Readings

First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

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

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.  
<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>3:1</sup>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'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the

## Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

## Psalm



Happy are they  
whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin <sup>1</sup> put away!  
**2 Happy are they**  
to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile!  
<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue,  
my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
    because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.  
**4 For your hand was heavy upon me**  
day and night;  
    my moisture was dried up  
    as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer.  
**5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,**  
and did not con- <sup>1</sup> ceal my guilt.  
    I said, "I will confess  
    my transgressions to the LORD."

## Psalm 32; tone 10

Then you forgave me  
the guilt <sup>1</sup> of my sin.  
**6 Therefore all the faithful will make**  
their prayers to you in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
    when the great waters overflow,  
    they <sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.  
**7 You are my hiding-place;**  
you preserve <sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
    you surround me  
    with shouts <sup>1</sup> of deliverance.  
**8 "I will instruct you and teach you**  
in the way that <sup>1</sup> you should go;  
    I will guide you <sup>1</sup> with my eye.  
**9 Do not be like horse or mule,**  
which have no <sup>1</sup> understanding;  
    who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
    or else they will <sup>1</sup> not stay near you."

continued

<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations <sup>1</sup> of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those  
who trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous,  
and rejoice <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are <sup>1</sup> true of heart.

## Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>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 gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

<sup>16</sup>And the gift is not like the effect of the one

man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

## Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from  
the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

TODAY'S READINGS February 22, 2026

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Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17.

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