St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others

February 22, 2026: The First Sunday in Lent
10:30 am Holy Eucharist

~~ Everyone is WELCOME here, for everyone is beloved by GOD ~~

Lent is season of preparation for Easter through spiritual self-examination, fasting from harmful practices or substances, giving to the needy, setting aside more time for prayer and Bible study, and generally trying to give Jesus a central place in our lives. Today, we learn why the season is 40 days long (not counting Sundays): Jesus' time in the wilderness, fasting and praying, in preparation for his ministry. He faces down Satan, the Adversary/Tempter, and stays true to his calling.

The Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz is our Presider today. *Welcome back, Mary Jo!*

New to our church? We'd love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

All persons who desire to receive Holy Communion are served here, no questions asked. The bread is home-baked and does contain gluten. It may be dipped into the small bowl of wine; or, consume your bread and sip wine from the chalice that follows. Or neither: just cross your arms over your chest. You may also ask a blessing from the priest.

Hymn # These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.
WLP # These hymns are located in the green hymnal books that will be handed out.

Gathering of the Community

Prelude _____

Processional Hymn #150 _____ *Forty days and forty nights*

A Penitential Order, beginning with the Decalogue

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:

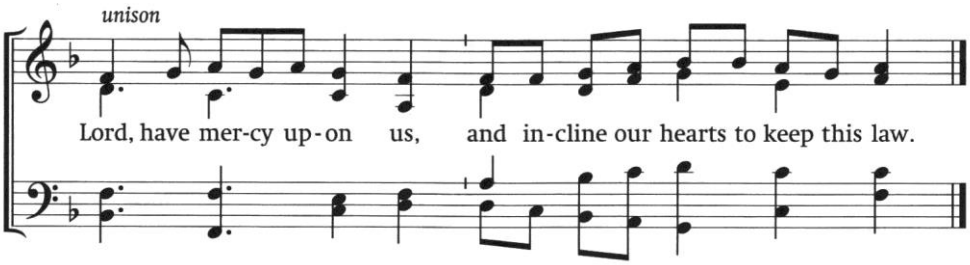
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider Hear the commandments of God to his people.

The people may kneel, or remain standing, through the Collect of the Day.

(1) I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Sung response for commandments 1–9



(2) You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

(3) You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

(4) Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

(5) Honor your father and your mother.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

(6) You shall not murder.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

(7) You shall not commit adultery.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

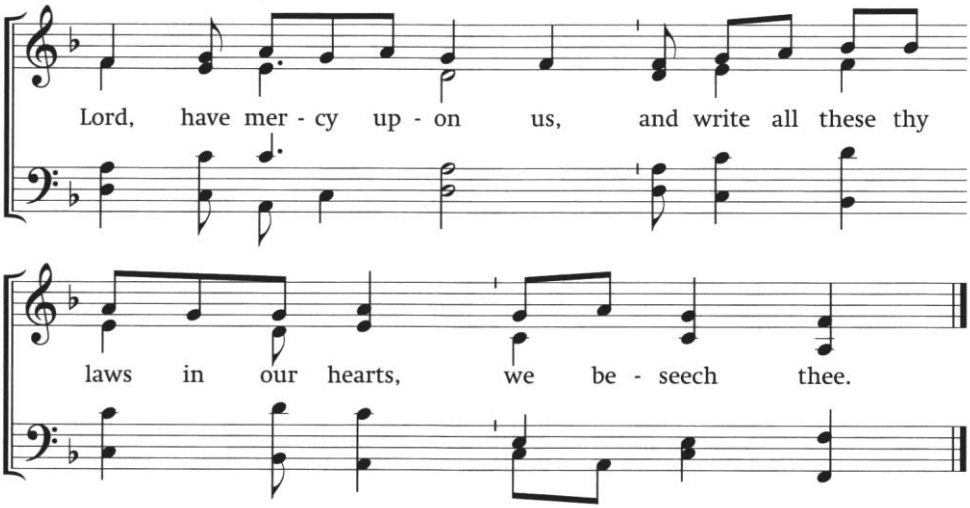
(8) You shall not steal.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

(9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

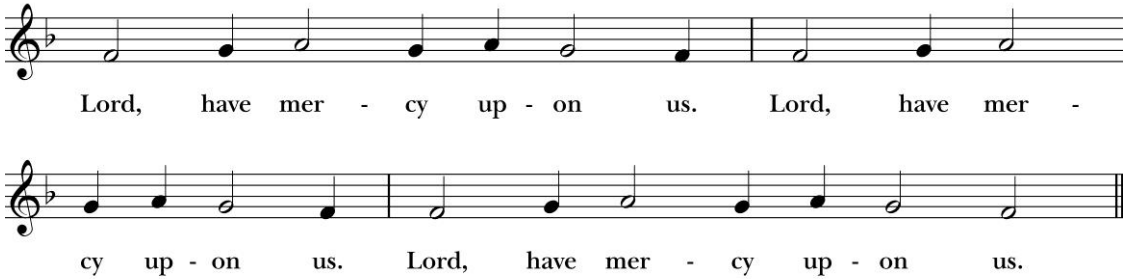
(10) You shall not covet.



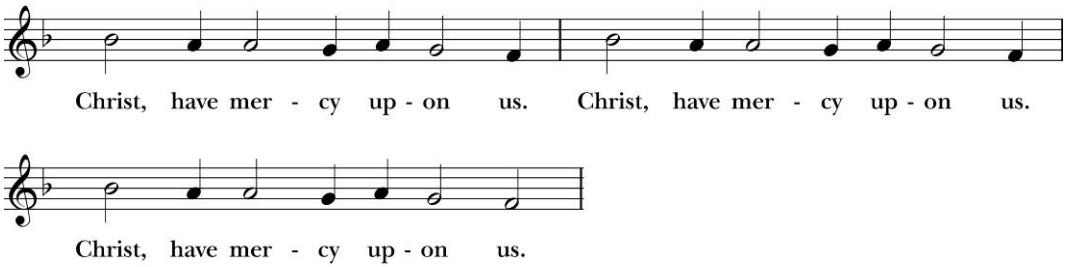
Confession of Sin _____ *based on Psalm 51; from the Church of England*

Deacon You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins,
and are in love and charity with your neighbors,
and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God
and walking from henceforth in his holy ways:
draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to almighty God.
Silence

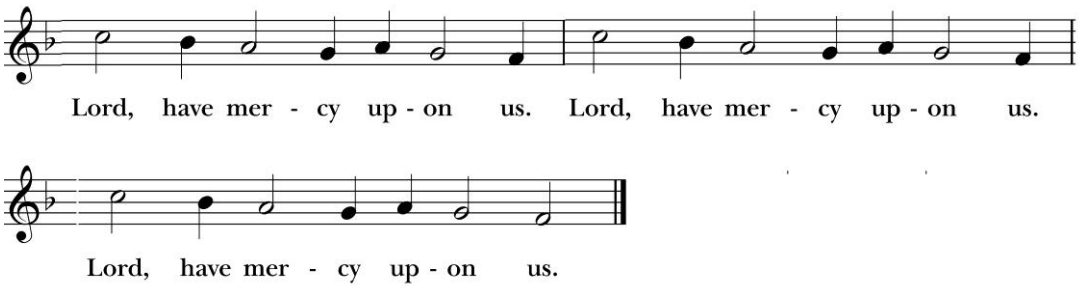
Deacon Wash me through and through from my wickedness, *
Response **and cleanse me from my sin.**



Deacon Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
Response **and renew a right spirit within me.**



Deacon Cast me not away from your presence, *
Response **and take not your holy Spirit from me.**



Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you**.
Priest Let us pray together.
All **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.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Please be seated.

The First Reading _____ *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

Reader A Reading from the book of Genesis.

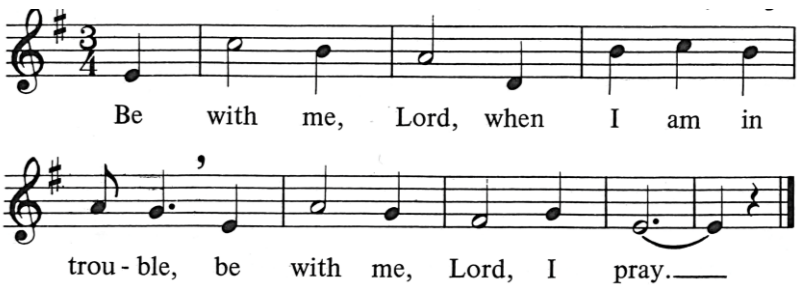
The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm _____ *Psalm 32*

The congregation joins in the Antiphon:



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. *ANTIPHON*

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. *ANTIPHON*

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. *ANTIPHON*

The Second Reading_____ *Romans 5:12-19*

Reader A reading from Paul's Letter 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.

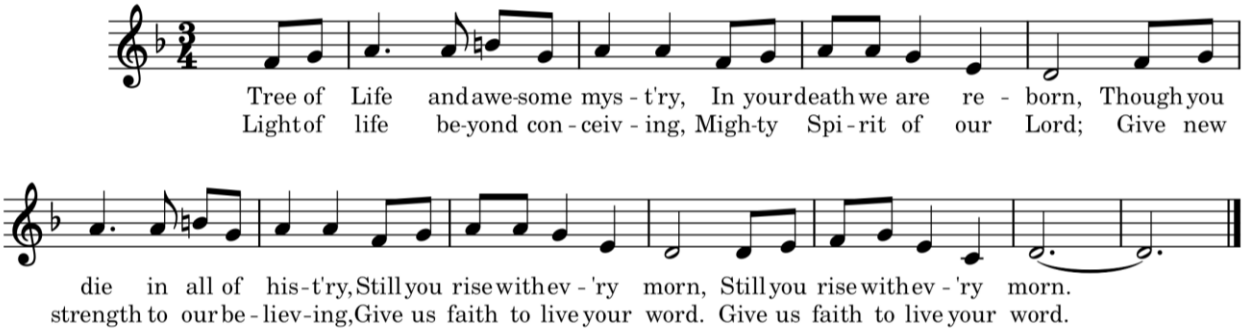
But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn, *throughout Lent* _____ *Tree of Life*

Two verses are sung before the Gospel; a third is sung afterward.



The Gospel Reading *Please remain standing* _____ *Matthew 4:1-11*

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

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 to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn, *third verse of "Tree of Life" (previous page)* _____

From the dawning of creation, You have loved us as your own;
Stay with us through all temptation, Make us turn to you alone.

A Gospel Response, "Jesus Refused" _____ *Source: Iona Community*

A. Lord Jesus Christ, you refused to turn stones into bread.
Save us from using our power, however little,
to satisfy the demands of selfishness
in the face of the needs of others.

B. Lord Jesus Christ, you refused to leap from the temple top.
Save us from displaying our skills, however modest,
to win instant popularity
in the face of nobler calls on our abilities.

C. Lord Jesus Christ, you refused to bend the knee to a false god.
Save us from offering our devotion, however weak,
to cheap or easy religion
in the face of the harder path, on which you bid us to follow you.

Presider Savior of the World,
you saw Satan masquerading as an angel of light, and shunned him.
Give us wisdom to discern, behind each subtle temptation,
the ploys of the prince of darkness;
and in the face of all that is hellishly attractive,
help us to choose the will of God. **Amen.**

The Sermon *Please be seated* _____ *Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz*
A time of silent reflection follows the Sermon

The Nicene Creed *Please stand, as able* _____

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.

Prayers of the People in Lent

Deacon With bowed heads and humble hearts, let us make known our hopes and needs to God, who in Christ will hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for the whole church, that the fasting of these forty days may clear away much that needlessly divides us. Open our eyes to the unity and opportunities we share in Christ Jesus our Lord. Especially we pray for all who are spending this Lent in preparation for baptism at Easter. *Silence*
God of all mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those who lead us in faith, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Anne our assisting Bishop, the leaders of our diocese and parish, and our ecumenical partners in ministry. *Silence*
God of all mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all who suffer now because of war, poverty, injustice, or climate change. Turn the hearts of the wealthy and powerful away from serving greed, and guide them into your ways of peace and equity. *Silence*
God of all mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those who yearn for healing, both physical and spiritual: people who are hurting, weakened, confused, or depressed. Especially we lift up those on our Prayer List, and others we name aloud… *Silence*

God of all mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those near death, those who have died, and all who mourn for loved ones; especially remembering those we name… That with all the saints, they are at peace in eternal light. *Silence*
God of all mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Presider O God of wilderness journeys and healing springs, remember us and all who turn to you for salvation. Teach us in these forty days to know the joys and responsibilities of following Jesus, in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace _____

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you!**
Let us share a sign of Christ's Peace with one another.

Milestones and Announcements _____

The Offertory _____

If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form.

Offertory Anthem _____ *Appalachian Lord's Prayer*

The Doxology *Please stand & join in singing* _____

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving *Please remain standing, as able* *source: Church of England*

Presider The Lord is with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

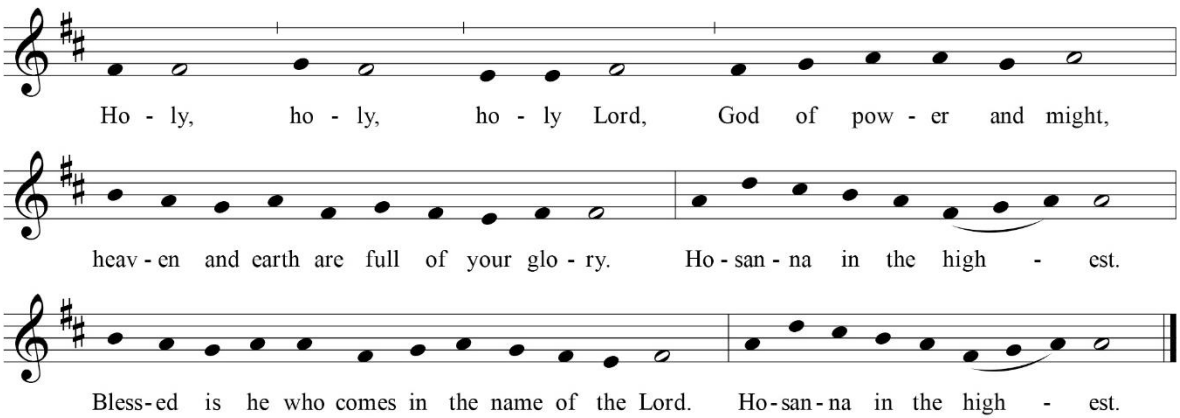
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God our Creator, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world, and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels, forever praising you and singing:

Sanctus, #S-124 _____ *setting by D. Hurd*



The congregation may kneel or stand as the priest continues

Accept our praises, O God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit + these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:**
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Presider Accept through Christ, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, + inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body of Christ Jesus.

Through whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours, for ever and ever. Amen!**

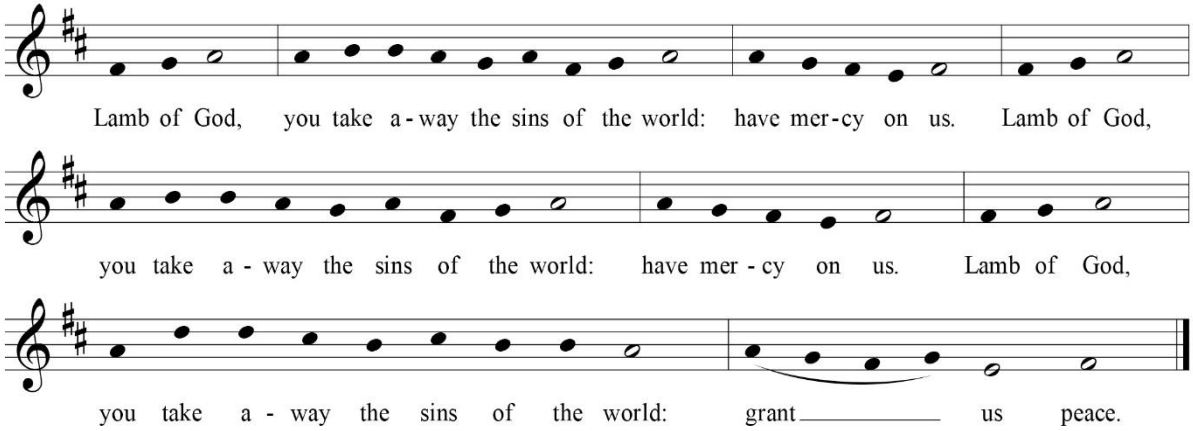
Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

The Lords Prayer

All **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 Bread, *silence follows*

At the Fraction: Agnus Dei _____ *setting by D. Hurd*



Invitation to Communion _____

Priest The feast is prepared, a banquet beyond measure or price.
Christ meets us here in our brokenness so that none may be lost,
and invites all who hunger for God to stretch out their hands to receive him.

Deacon These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

The Communion _____

All are welcome *but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead. The bread is home-baked and does contain gluten. The wine may be sipped from the chalice, or wait to intinct (dip your bread) into the small bowl of blessed wine. Please do not intinct into the chalice.*

Communion Hymn _____ *When we are tested*

Sung to Slane ("Be thou my vision")

1 **When we are tested and wrestle alone,**
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

2 **When in the desert we cry for relief,**
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

3 **When we are tempted to barter our souls,**
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

4 **When we have struggled and searched through the night,**
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Hymn #142 _____ *Lord, who throughout these forty days*

Prayer after Communion *Please stand or kneel* _____ *Source: Church of England*

Presider Let us pray.

All **We thank you, loving God,**
that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people.
Empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out as faithful disciples of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Solemn Prayer, *in place of the Blessing during Lent* _____

Deacon Let us bow down before the Lord.
Silent prayer

Presider Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go Forth!

Sending Out Hymn #527 _____ *Singing songs of expectation*

Sending Out _____

The Deacon dismisses the congregation, and the people respond: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude _____

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- *"Be With Me,"* psalm refrain by Marty Haugen © 1980, GIA Publications. Chant by Susan Williams.
- *"Tree of Life,"* text and music by Marty Haugen © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.
- *Appalachian Lord's Prayer* adapted by Rick Sowash © 2013, St. James Music Press.
- *Sanctus* (Hymn S-124) and *Agnus Dei* (Hymn S-161) by David Hurd: *New Plainsong* © 1981, GIA Publications.
- *"When we are tested,"* text by Ruth Duck © 1996, Hope Publishing.

Please join us for coffee hour where there will be a presentation from St. Dunstan's in Davison regarding their fundraiser to build wells in Kenya.