

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**February 22, 2026 – The First Sunday in Lent**  
**8:30 Bulletin**

**LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED**

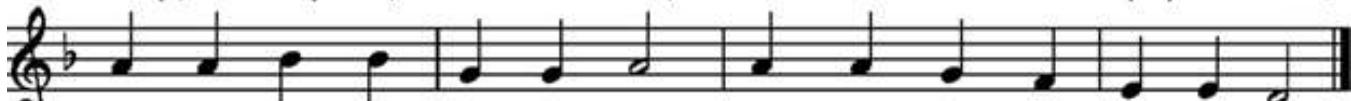
The word “Lent” conjures up a variety of images and feelings and is often understood as no feasting, no parties, no fun, and a requirement to go to confession, fast on certain days, and give up something for the season. Figuring out what to “give up” is often a challenge and many people get stuck here, but the ultimate purpose of Lent is to strengthen our spiritual lives. During this time, we are asked to quiet down our busy lives and pray more to consider the ways we need to repent, or in other words, to turn around and become closer to God. Taking on a spiritual practice, giving alms, and helping those in need during these forty days are ways that we may prepare ourselves for the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The liturgical color is **purple**.

**OPENING HYMN: Forty Days And Forty Nights**

*Please stand as you are able*



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;  
2. Shall not we your sor-row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,  
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
5. Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, Ev - er con - stant by your side;



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de-filed.  
2. Fast- ing with un - ceas-ing prayer, Strong with you to suf - fer pain?  
3. Vic - tor in the wil - der-ness, Grant we may not faint nor fail!  
4. Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served you faith-ful - ly.  
5. That with you we may ap - pear At th'e - ter - nal Eas - ter-tide.

**ACCLAMATION** *BCP p. 355*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

**People His mercy endures for ever.**

**KYRIE** *BCP p. 356*

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

*This Week's Reader: Karen Davenport † Next Sunday: Cheryle Kahl*

## FIRST READING Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 *Please be seated*

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 32

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the \**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,\*  
**and whose sin is put away!**

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,\*  
**and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,\*  
**because of my groaning all day long.**

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;\*  
**my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you,\*  
**and did not conceal my guilt.**

<sup>6</sup>I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."\*  
**Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in  
time of trouble;\*  
**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach  
them.**

<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble;\*  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

<sup>9</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should  
go;\*  
**I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>10</sup>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."**

<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked;\*  
**but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;\*  
**shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

## **SECOND READING** 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**GOSPEL** Matthew 4:1-11*Please stand as you are able*

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.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** *BCP p. 358**Please stand as you are 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***The Leader and people pray responsively:*

During this Lenten season of self-examination, repentance, fasting, prayer, self-denial, and almsgiving, we offer our prayers to God, saying:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the Christian church of God throughout the world, that all its members may turn to the Lord and keep a holy Lent.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the continued protection of federal workers and whistleblowers, that they and the governing authorities may uphold honesty and safety in public service for the common good.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for our nation in a time of crisis, and continue to keep in our prayers the families of Silverio Villegas González, Renee Good, and Alex Pretti, slain by ICE. May all who serve in immigration enforcement honor the dignity of every person they encounter.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the victims of warfare, especially in Ukraine, Gaza, the West Bank, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela, and for refugees around the world, that their mourning may be turned into joy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all who are persecuted, shunned, neglected, or rejected because of racism, fear, or anti-immigrant sentiment, and we pray for an end to this type of violence and behavior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the nations of the world, that those in authority will hear, see, and feel the love of God in their lives; may they work toward peace and reconciliation with all people and countries.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all who are in need of a safe place to live, for those who need food on the table, and for those who need protection and companionship.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all people suffering with physical illness or other health concerns, as well as their families and caretakers.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for those who suffer from emotional and mental illness, for people who are grieving, and for those who have died.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our own needs and those of others, that God may be our hope and consolation.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the special needs and concerns of our Grace family, and for those on our prayer list. Are there others?

Bless, comfort and protect all those for whom we pray.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the children in our lives and in our world: Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Grant us for the love of you to make no peace with oppression, to fear no adversity, and to have no tolerance for those who would use their power to abuse or exploit.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **AMEN.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand as you are able*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels

and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**



### **THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP p. 364**

*Celebrant:*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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 *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God, for all of us, the people of God.

Holy gifts for holy people.

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated*

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

*Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *BCP p. 366*

*Please stand as you are able*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

## BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

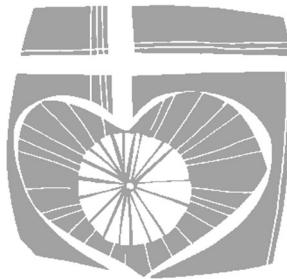
## CLOSING HYMN: Eternal Lord Of Love, Behold Your Church

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,  
  
walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;  
  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,  
  
moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,  
  
far off yet here - the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in - God.  
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

## DISMISSAL *BCP p. 366*

*Celebrant* Our worship has now ended; go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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



## **The Prayers of this Congregation**

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Donna Hanes; Jasmine Gardner; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Ghersi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Vickie Rose; Kristi Frangedakis; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Bill Atkinson; the family of Tom Krell; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Tom Burns; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Marilee Racine; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Ann Strevel.

*Do you know someone who can use our prayers?  
Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.*

## CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org*

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

### COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

### BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays at 9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

### CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

### LENTEN STUDY SERIES

The first part of our Lenten Study Series is watching and discussing Season 5 of "The Chosen." We're watching the eight episodes on **Tuesdays at 6:30 PM** in the Guild Room. This season focuses on the triumphal Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and goes through all of the Holy Week events.

The second component focuses on a discussion of white Christian nationalism which will meet **Sundays at noon** through Palm Sunday. We'll watch a video documentary the first week and explore readings from *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* by Carter Heyward. Participate in one or both activities for lively discussion as we prepare for Easter.

### BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be at **6 PM on March 12** at Grace Church. The book to be discussed is *The Feather Detective* by Chris Sweeney. We look forward to meeting newcomers as well as regular members for a fun evening. Call Ann Strevel with any questions or concerns.

## For Earth's Future

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**God** of the land, who **entrusted us** with the care of the Earth and the naming of its creatures, **we confess** that we have often **failed to live up to** this holy calling. In times when protections for your creation are weakened and uncertain, **we bring** before you **our fear** for the future of the Earth. **Grant us resolve** amidst these fears that we might work faithfully for wise and just stewardship of our common home. **Give** business leaders, governments, and people everywhere **the wisdom to act with integrity** around these environmental issues. We ask this for the sake of your Son, who became flesh and sanctified all creation. Amen.

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THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 