

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



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.

Weekly Update



1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

Sunday, February 22, 2026

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler | Joy Caveney
Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson | Rev. Pam Mitcham
Reed Morgan | Mike Muller | Craig Reichow | Jeremy Shoop
Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Debbie Bowman (niece of Betty Skelton)
Joy Brown (friend of Kate Flegal)
Symphony Calvillo & her two boys (friend of Kate Flegal)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Gianna Carter (granddaughter of Sam & Sharon Carter)
Bruce Dudziak (friend of Jared Lem)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Roseanne Heim (family member of Suzanne Flegal)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)
Lisa Nolf and Laizu (friends of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Tracy Radican (daughter of former HCLC pastor, Pastor Harper)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark & Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Nancy Swancutt (sister of Lynn Russo)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Dianna and Bill Tilton (friends of Jared & Nannette Lem)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)

THOSE IN MOURNING

Family & friends of Shirley Beamer (friend of Pam Darby)
Family & Friends of Twyleah Mitcham (sister-in-law of Rev. Pam Mitcham)
Family & friends of B. David Taylor (father of Catherine Taylor)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor: Rev. Pam Mitcham
Director of Music and Liturgy: Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician: Bob Thompson
Video Technician: Sylvia Moran

Serving February 22nd: First Sunday in Lent

Assisting Minister: Andy Krueger
Reader: Gary Wolfe
Acolyte: TBD
Greeter: Jared Lem

Serving March 1st: Second Sunday in Lent

Assisting Minister: TBD
Reader: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Greeter: TBD

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: FEB 22 – MAR 1

SU 22	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – First Sunday in Lent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	Stephen Ministry Training ~ Rm 202
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 24	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 25	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	6:00 pm	Lent Midweek Dinner
	7:00 pm	Lent Midweek Worship
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 26	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 28	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7th Day Adventist ~ FH
SU 1	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Second Sunday in Lent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	Stephen Ministry Training ~ Rm 202
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

LINK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY – FEBRUARY

Holy Cross is hosting a LINK Food Distribution Event to support 300 families in the Herndon area on Saturday, February 21st. Lots of help is needed with unloading and packing the food on Friday, February 20th. Additional help is needed on Saturday with directing traffic, moving food bags from inside the church to the front walk, and loading bags into clients' automobiles. To sign up to help, go here: tinyurl.com/LINK-Dist-Feb.



HYMN MADNESS 2026



Voting for 2026 Hymn Madness starts on **March 1st!** Brackets will be located **in the Narthex** for you to pick up and complete. You can also find it **on our website under Current Links** or at tinyurl.com/HCLC-Hymn-Madness if you want to print at home. Winner with the most points will win the right to pick hymns on a Sunday this summer! Make sure to **fill out your bracket** with your name on it and return to Lauren or Jeremy before voting begins!!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – LENT SESSION

Beginning February 22, the First Sunday in Lent, the adult Sunday School class will focus on the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus on the cross as described in the Gospel of John. The class meets at 9:00 in the Conference Room—all are welcome.

LUNCH FOR THE SOUL – MARCH 4

We need your help to serve our neighbors in need through this caring ministry! Holy Cross provides lunch on the first Wednesday of every month, and your support in cooking, serving, or cleanup is always welcome. Our next opportunity to serve is on Wednesday, February 4th. Please consider joining us! You can sign up at: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717 or scan the QR code.



LENT MIDWEEK DINNER CHURCH SERVICES BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

Join us for fellowship, fun and worship during Lent! Beginning Wednesday, February 25, and continuing through Wednesday, March 25, we will be having our midweek Lent Worship Services every week at 7:00 pm. Please join us for dinner and fellowship prior to the service at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

HOME COMMUNION

If you or a loved one is unable to attend worship due to illness, age, or mobility issues, and would like to receive Communion, you can schedule a visit by contacting the office at Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org or 703-437-1883.

THANK YOU



Thank you to our dedicated ELL teachers for the time, patience, and heart you pour into your work each week.

Your commitment to walking alongside students as they learn the English language makes a lasting difference—not only in their skills, but in their confidence and sense of belonging. We are so grateful for all you do!

Classes are on Wednesday night from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. The spring semester is from January 14 – May 13, 2026. New students can join in weekly throughout the semester. Class will not meet the week of April 1. (Easter week)

QUILTING

Ever wonder where those beautiful quilts go that our quilting guild works on each month? They go all over the world through Lutheran World Relief. It's a tangible way for us to express love to our neighbors in need. If you would like to experience the fun of quilting, the guild meets every third Saturday at 10:00 am in room 202.



You can also stop by the Fellowship Hall after Sunday service for coffee, snacks and fellowship where there is always a LWR quilt available to work on – no experience necessary!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

Each year, Lent begins with a synoptic account of the temptation of Jesus. Jesus was truly human, suffering from the devil's temptations no less than we, and so he can stand by us when we are tempted. We too conquer evil with the power of God's word: and that word for us is embodied in Christ. In worship, we hear that word and eat the food of God.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Gracious God,

Assembly: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Pastor: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

Assembly: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

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

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

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

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

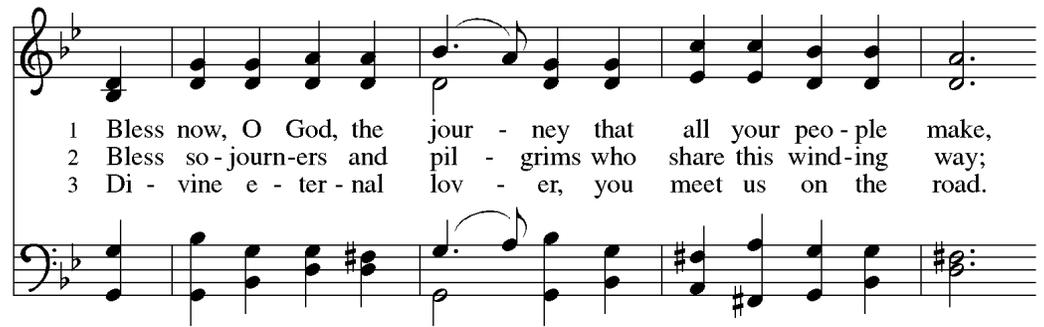
Pastor: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your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

Throughout Lent, we are invited to walk the way with Jesus, a path that is rarely easy and never shallow. This season calls us into deeper reflection on our lives and on Christ's living presence among us. "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" gathers us in song this morning, lifting our praise as we ready our hearts for the road ahead. In her text, Sylvia Dunstan reminds us that the journey of faith may lead through struggle, yet God's blessing goes with us, sustaining us step by step.

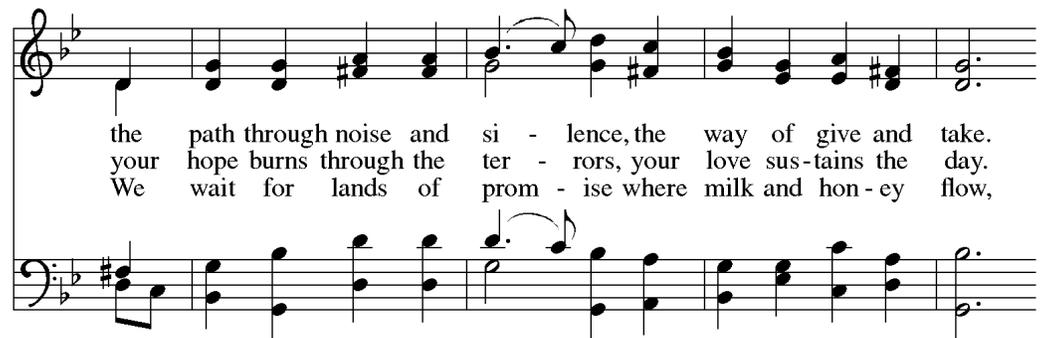
GATHERING HYMN

(ELW 326)

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

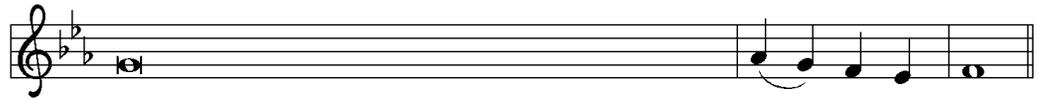
(Setting 1)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



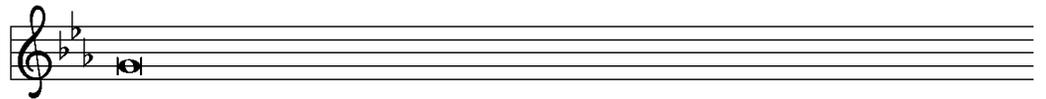
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



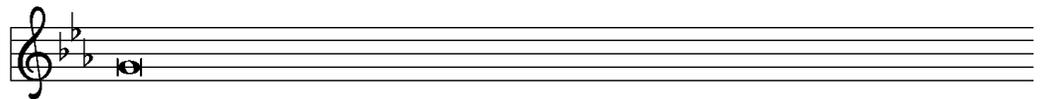
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

The prayer of the day, based on prayer #25 in the 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, takes evil and temptation, whether within or outside of us, with utter seriousness and asks for strength from God's word to resist the powers of evil.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

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.

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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."

Jesus withstood temptation, but we do not. Genesis 2–3 provides a foil to the gospel by presenting its opposite. This ancient tale of the origins of human suffering has much wisdom to offer. Although we do not encounter talking serpents, we do disobey God, and we do eat

false foods, and we do invite others to join us in disobedience, and we do know shame and sexual sorrow.

Paul's analysis of the Genesis 2–3 story is helpful in our time. Not interested in probing the details of the ancient narrative, Paul uses the story to illumine Christ. The ancient story tells of sin and death, and Christ brings us to grace and life.

^{3:1} 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?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ 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.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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: Word of God, word of life.
 Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND 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.

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

¹² 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 ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

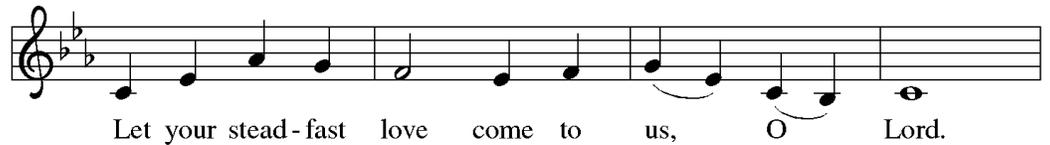
Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Setting 1)



We begin our Christian life with baptism and then, like Jesus, face temptations. Each temptation as described in Matthew has symbolic meaning for us: we are tempted to survive apart from the food from comes from God, to assume that God will miraculously protect us, and to worship the world instead of God. God's Word protects us, and angels attend us.

GOSPEL

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.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him

“When We Are Tested” gives voice to the wilderness moment at the heart of today’s gospel, as Jesus is led into the desert and confronted by temptation. Drawn from the account in the Matthew’s gospel, this hymn echoes Christ’s forty days of hunger, struggle, and steadfast trust in God.

The text moves beyond recounting Jesus’ experience to name our own: the quiet tests of faith, the subtle pull of power or comfort, and the moments when obedience feels costly. As Jesus resists the tempter not through force but through faithfulness, the hymn reminds us that God’s Word and God’s presence sustain us in every trial. In this Lenten season, “When We Are Tested” invites us to walk the wilderness road with Christ, trusting that God’s strength is made known precisely where we feel most vulnerable.

all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

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

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ACS 922)

When We Are Tested

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

food that sus - tains us by night and by day,
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

APOSTLES' CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,
Assembly: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
 Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the
 dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer
 for the church, the world, and all those in
 need.

*We pray for the greater
 church.*

Assisting Minister: 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.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: 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.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: God of all nations, preserve us from trouble.
 Surround all living in places of violence with
 your steadfast love and give resilience to all

We pray for those in need.

We pray for this congregation.

We remember the saints.

The sharing of THE PEACE is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated, include those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*) Hear us, O God.

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: God of all people, you meet us in ways we do not expect, calling us beyond what is familiar and into the wideness of your mercy. Steady us in your presence and keep us open to your voice. Form us into a people who trust your work among us and reflect your generous love. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

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

Assembly: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Bread of the World
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mark Pope

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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.

Assembly: Amen.



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Pastor: It is our duty and delight...

...and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 1)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught us.

Assembly: **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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please sit.

DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. The pastor will be in the center with the bread. All the bread we use here is gluten free. On either side will be someone with a tray of red wine and white grape juice. Empty cups can be placed in the basket on either side of the aisle. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms on your chest. The ushers will direct you forward.*

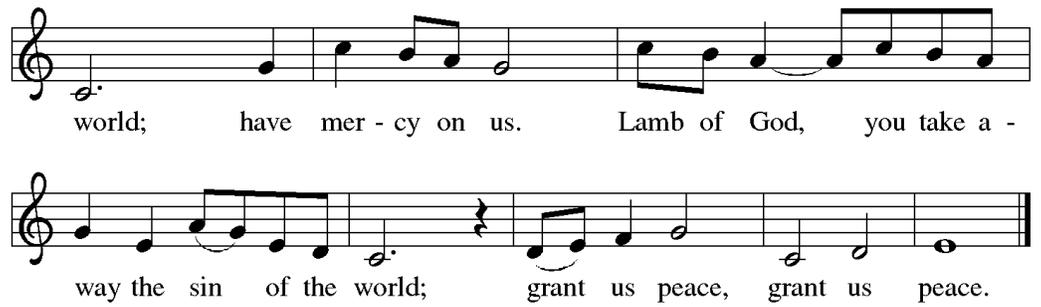
AGNUS DEI

(Setting 1)



The tune for “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” comes from Kentucky Harmony, a landmark collection in the history of American church music. Compiled in the early nineteenth century, it belongs to the shape-note tradition, a style of singing in which different note shapes guide the voice. This music, born for communal singing rather than performance, spread widely across the American South and has been sung for more than two centuries. Designed to welcome non-musicians into song, shape-note music continues to form faith through shared, embodied sound.

In the second stanza of this hymn, we are drawn into Christ’s forty-day fast in the wilderness. As Jesus resists the tempter, the text invites us to do the same—trusting that, in every season of trial,



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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ELW 319)

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and
prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal
for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

*God's strength meets us
in our weakness.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ELW 319)

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

Assembly: **Amen.**





WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



“Jesus, Still Lead On” comes to us from the rich hymnody of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, who wrote more than two thousand hymns shaped by a life of deep faith and tireless devotion. Zinzendorf spent his life, and his fortune, traveling widely, forming Christian communities, and bearing witness to the gospel. His hymns consistently return to themes of trust, guidance, and quiet assurance.

First written by Zinzendorf and later translated by Jane Borthwick, “Jesus, Still Lead On” speaks tenderly into the Lenten journey we sing and pray today. It reminds us that the road before us is not one we walk alone. Christ goes with us—steady, faithful, and present—especially in moments of weariness or doubt. In this hymn, we rest in the promise that wherever the path leads, Jesus walks beside us, guiding us

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Still Lead On

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

step by step through the wilderness and beyond.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and
forever.

Assembly: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for
you.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*As part of our continuous efforts to make worship
more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you
refrain from applauding during worship and after the
postlude.*



FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, ed. M.L. de Mastro (Garden City, NY: Image, 1977), 105-106.]

The Lord formed these words in my soul: “Therewith is the fiend overcome.” When he said these words, our Lord was referring to his blessed passion. On account of this, I laughed loud and long, which made those who were around me laugh too, and their laughter was a pleasure to me. I understood that we may laugh, comforting ourselves and rejoicing in God that the devil has been overcome.

—*Julian of Norwich*

The nineteenth-century French artist James Tissot, after experiencing a religious reawakening, dedicated his last seventeen years to the project of painting the Bible. He journeyed to the Middle East to learn the land and study its inhabitants, so as to portray biblical scenes with accuracy. Some of his 365 biblical illustrations are quite striking, including his depiction of the ministration of the angels after the temptation of Christ.



THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

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There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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