



Sunday, February 22, 2026
The First Sunday in Lent



THE SEASON OF

LENT

THE SEASON OF LENT is a time of repentance, renewal, and return. Rooted in the ancient practices of the Church, Lent invites us into forty days of intentional self-examination and prayer as we prepare to walk with Christ toward the cross and the promise of resurrection. In the Episcopal Church, Lent is marked not by despair but by honesty; a season that tells the truth about our lives, our world, and our deep need for God's mercy and grace.

Throughout Lent, the Church calls us to self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's holy Word. The Gospel readings trace Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem, confronting temptation, injustice, suffering, and the cost of faithful love. These stories invite us to look inward and outward, to notice where we have turned away from God and neighbor, and to open ourselves again to the transforming power of grace. At St. Francis, we engage this work through the Way of Love, seven practices for living a Jesus-centered life.

Lent is also a season of hope and reorientation. Through confession and forgiveness, we are not weighed down but set free; freed to be reconciled, restored, and renewed in Christ. You can find the sacramental rite of Reconciliation at the back of this bulletin. Please contact Laurie+ to set a time for this sacrament. In this holy season, the Church invites us to return to the Lord with our whole hearts, trusting that God's mercy is steadfast, and that beyond the wilderness lies new life.

PICTURES AND VIDEO

We love pictures and videos, and we love sharing what we do on social media. When attending our events or services, you agree to our using pictures of you and any children in your charge on social media and elsewhere. If you prefer not to be included in photos or video, please inform a staff member or usher.

GATHERING HYMN *Stand*

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

The congregation stands and sings the response three times.

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The second staff continues the melody, featuring a change in time signature to 2/4 and then back to 4/4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Our worship begins with the Acclamation and Penitential Rite.

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation.

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

Presider Blessed be our God.

People **Now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Blessed be our God, who redeems our lives from the grave,

People **And crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. Amen.**

Presider Blessed be our God, who leads us beside still waters.

People **Blessed be our God for we shall not want.**

Presider Blessed be our God, who restores our souls.

People **Blessed be our God our shepherd and guide.**

Presider Blessed be our God, who walks with us through the valleys of the shadow of death.

People **Blessed be our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Then may be added.

Presider Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People **for we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.**

Presider Create in us a clean heart, O God,

People **and make us a new creation. Amen.**

Presider "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *1 John 1:8, 9*

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

As we enter in to worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we may be reconciled to each other and to God.

Deacon Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God. Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask for mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

A prolonged silence is kept for a time.

Deacon Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me: Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

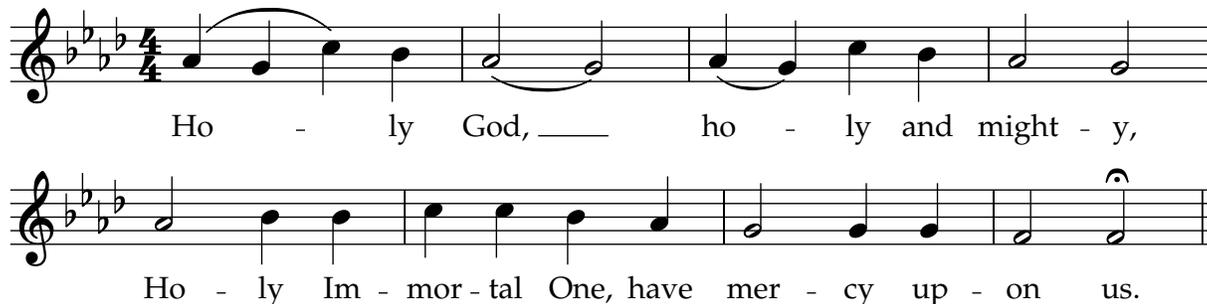
The Presider prays the declaration of forgiveness.

Presider May the Eternal God forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People **Amen.**

SONG OF PENANCE: TRISAGION

The Trisagion is repeated three times.



Ho - ly God, ——— ho - ly and might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: *Missa Oecumenica*; Richard Proulx, 1937–2010, © 1999, 2012. Richard Proulx.
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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider **Let us pray.**

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

All are seated.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

At 10:30am, the congregation sings the refrain with the cantor.

Refrain



Lord, for-give the wrong I have done, for-give the wrong I have done.

Verses

1. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.
2. To you I have acknowledged, acknowledged my sin;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said, "I will confess my transgression to the LORD."
And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin.
3. You are a hiding place for me;
you keep me safe from distress;
you surround me with cries, with cries of deliverance,
you surround me with cries of deliverance.
4. Rejoice in the LORD, exult you just! Rejoice in the LORD.
Ring out your joy, all you upright of heart! Ring out your joy!

THE SECOND READING: A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS

Reader

A reading from the letter to the 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.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church.

People

Thanks be to God.

PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOSPEL

We stand, as we are able, for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance we place on Jesus' words and actions.

GOSPEL ANTIPHON 10:30am. Stand **TURN OUR HEARTS AROUND**

Sing refrain, verse, and refrain before Gospel Reading.



Turn our hearts a - round. Turn our hearts a - round.



Flood our souls com-plete - ly, wash us in your love.



Turn our hearts a - round. Turn our hearts a - round.



Hold us in your mer - cy, change us with your love.



You have prom - ised and yet we doubt your



faith - ful word. Bring us back, Turn our hearts a - round.

THE GOSPEL *Stand*

Deacon Hear the Good new of Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

4:1-11

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.

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

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *At 10:30am, sing the refrain above one time through.*

SERMON *Sit*

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

We remain seated for the sermon. Having someone comment on the scriptures read goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

THE NICENE CREED *Stand*

The Presider, priest or deacon, leads the assembly in an affirmation of faith. Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. But, since the Sixth Century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to." Creeds tell a deeper "truth" that goes beyond "facts."

Deacon Let us affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

**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 human.
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 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

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God, but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually, we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God. The Deacon, when present in the liturgy, offers the prayers for those who are sick or have asked our prayers.

Presider David, Deacon in the Church of God, what cares and concerns of the world do you bring before us today?

Deacon People of God, I bid your prayers for our parish, our wider community and the world, including those who are sick, in need, or in want which I now name.

We pray to the Eternal One for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves in service to Christ.

Silence is kept for a time.

Leader Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to our mission in the world. We pray for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Deon, our Bishop, Laurie and David, our clergy. May the wounds of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence;

People Give us strength and hear our prayer.

Leader Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for those in authority. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once whipped by soldiers, bear witness to your call for an end to political and military violence everywhere. Lord, meet us in the silence;

People **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Leader Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction in our lives together. Lord, meet us in the silence;

People **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Leader Give us the courage to let our fear of death go so that we may rejoice with those who have died in faith. May the feet of the risen Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory. Lord, meet us in the silence;

People **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Concluding prayer led by the Presider:

Presider Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples that you must undergo great suffering and be killed before rising again; grant us the strength and wisdom to be your followers and to take up our cross to follow you, this day and always.

People **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

As we enter the most sacred portion of our worship we exchange a sign of God's promised peace. There are no set words to use in greeting each other, but "Peace be with you," "God's peace," and "Shalom" are all commonly used.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

We are a community of reconciliation and peace; therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Sit*

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who contribute as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your contribution in the collection plate or use the QR code to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.



OFFERTORY 10:30am

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

H 150



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy 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 thee to suf - fer pain?
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

As the ushers bring forth the offering, all stand.

1 CHRON. 29:14

Presider Everything comes from you, O Lord.

People We have given you only what comes from your hand.

WE GATHER AT THE TABLE *Stand*

The Eucharistic Prayer, or Great Thanksgiving, is the prayer of the Church to invite Church to be present in the elements of bread and wine. Now we come to the second act of the drama with the Liturgy of the Table. It is based on Jewish Fellowship meals, particularly the Passover observance. But this second half of the service is not communion in and of itself. It is the whole service, both acts of the drama, that make up the Eucharist.

Presider God is with 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 thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

Say at 8:30am:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sing at 10:30am:

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 Jesus 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

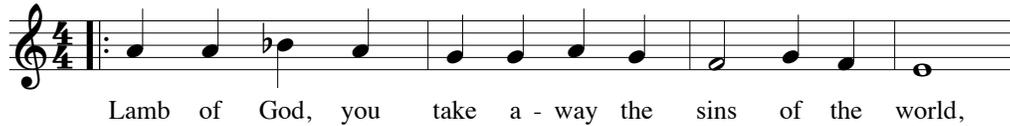
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM *10:30am*



Presider Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

People **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

COMMUNION INVITATION

Our bread is gluten-, dairy-, and nut-friendly. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION INSTRUMENTAL *10:30am*

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS ARR. DAN CHADBURN

THE GREAT SILENCE *Sit*

Once all have received communion and the Holy Table has been cleared, the community observes a moment of silent reflection and prayer.

Presider Jesus said to his disciples, "Come away to a quiet place and rest for a while." Therefore, let us now rest in Christ's presence in the silence.

A prolonged silence is kept. At the bell, the silence is broken.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Stand*

After the silence the Presider invites the congregation to stand and pray saying:

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

The Presider prays over the people as a reminder of God's extravagant love and invites us to go into the world to be God's blessing.

Deacon Bow down your hearts before the Lord our God.

The Presider offers the prayer over the people.

People **Amen.**

Refrain

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa - lem, my
 des - ti - ny! Though I can - not see the end for me, I
 can - not turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the
 way; this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let no one walk a -
 lone. The jour - ney makes us one.

Verses

1. Oth - er spir - its, less - er gods, have court - ed me with lies.
2. See, I leave the past be - hind; a new land calls to me.
3. In my thirst, you let me drink the wa - ters of your life.

D.C.

Here a - mong you I have found a truth which bids me rise.
 Here a - mong you now I find a glimpse of what might be.
 Here a - mong you I have met the sa - viour, Je - sus Christ.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

THE RECONCILIATION OF A PENITENT

In this holy season, the Church invites us to return to the Lord with our whole hearts, trusting that God's mercy is steadfast. The sacrament of reconciliation, found on page 447 of the Book of Common Prayer, can be a powerful outward symbol of our desire to turn to God and of God's boundless grace. If you would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during this holy season, please contact Laurie+

The Penitent begins

Bless me, for I have sinned.

The Priest says

The Lord be in your heart and upon your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Penitent

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone; especially _____. For these and all other sins which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry. I pray God to have mercy on me. I firmly intend amendment of life, and I humbly beg forgiveness of God and his Church, and ask you for counsel, direction, and absolution.

Here the Priest may offer counsel, direction, and comfort.

The Priest then pronounces this absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you all your offenses; and by his authority committed to me, I absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Priest adds

The Lord has put away all your sins.

Penitent

Thanks be to God.

The Priest concludes

Go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.