



CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 22 February 2026

First Sunday in Lent



A PRAYER FOR THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit of God, breathe life into this gathering.

**Move among us through Word and Sacrament,
that faith may be kindled, hope renewed, and love made strong.**

**Form us not only for this hour,
but for lives of service and witness in the days ahead,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus came to stand with sinners,
fulfilling all righteousness.*

And so we are God's beloved children, washed clean in Christ.

Led by the Spirit, Jesus entered the wilderness, facing temptation and trial.

In our own testing, we trust the One who stands firm for us.

Having overcome the tempter, Jesus comes to serve, save, and restore.

We gather to worship him – our righteousness, our victory, and our life.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon,
our faithful helper in all need,
our stay, whate'er may happen.**

**The old evil foe now means deadly woe; deep guile and great might
are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done,
soon were our fall effected;
but for us fights the valiant one
whom God Himself elected.**

Ask ye: Who is this?

**Christ Jesus it is, of Sabaoth Lord,
and there's none other God; He holds the field for ever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill,
all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill,
they shall not overpower us.**

**This world's prince may still
scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none;
he's judged, for e'er undone; one little word can fell him.**

**Despite all foes, the Word shall stand
against all their endeavour;
God's gifts and Spirit, close at hand,
shall be with us forever.**

**Though they cause distress,
take all we possess, though they hurt and kill,
we are victorious still; the kingdom's ours forever.**

**Frederick Henry Hedge, Martin Luther, Nathan Drake
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LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIFY YOUR NAME

Father, we love You, we praise You, we adore You.

Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Glorify Your name, glorify Your name.

Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You, we praise You, we adore You.

Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Glorify Your name, glorify Your name.

Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You, we praise You, we adore You.

Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Glorify Your name, glorify Your name.

Glorify Your name in all the earth.

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father,
at the waters of the Jordan you named Jesus your beloved, and in the wilderness you strengthened him to stand firm. Speak your naming word over us again, that in every testing we may live from your grace and walk in freedom as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

PSALM 32

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, 'I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord.'
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
You are my hiding-place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding

*but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.
Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.
Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!*

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

BIBLE READING

Genesis 2:15-17 - The creation and fall

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'

*After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.*

Romans 5:12-19 - Death through Adam, life through Christ

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned – To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: the judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life

through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 3:13 – 4:11 - The temptation of Jesus

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is also 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 splendour. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”’ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

LENTEN STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, who calls us out of dust and sin to life in him.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who took our humanity, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried, bearing our sin for our salvation. We believe that he rose from the dead, that we are forgiven and justified by grace alone, through faith alone, for his sake alone.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who draws us to repentance, creates faith through the Gospel, and leads us in the way of the cross. We believe in the one holy Church, the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GOD IN HUMAN SHOES

**In a dusty old place called Bethlehem
A woman gives birth, poor woman gives birth.
In a place where the animals sleep at night,
A woman gives birth to the Lord of us all.**

**God rules from a manger, God rules from a boat –
God in human shoes.**

**God rules from a donkey, God rules from the tree –
God become human to save you and me.**

**In a desolate place with sun-hardened day,
A man points the way, A man points the way.
With the Word inside him, Driving him on,
He points the way To the Lord of us all.**

**God rules from a manger, God rules from a boat –
God in human shoes.**

**God rules from a donkey, God rules from the tree –
God become human to save you and me.**

**On the shore of the lake, Where the fishing is good,
The sick come for life, The dying for life.
Now the blind can see And the deaf they can hear
That Jesus is he, The Lord of us all.**

**God rules from a manger, God rules from a boat –
God in human shoes. God rules from a donkey,
God rules from the tree –
God become human to save you and me.**

**On the hill where the convicts Are dragged out to die,
He hangs in his shame, He hangs in our shame,
Here he has saved us, Taking our fall,
Dies in our place, The Lord of us all.**

**God rules from a manger, God rules from a boat –
God in human shoes.**

**God rules from a donkey, God rules from the tree –
God become human to save you and me.**

Permission given by Matthew Thiele

MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSION OF SINS

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

I AM COVERED OVER

**I am covered over
with the robe of righteousness
that Jesus gives to me.**

**I am covered over
with the precious blood of Jesus
and he lives in me.**

**What a joy it is to know
my heavenly Father loves me so
and gives to me my Jesus,
when he looks at me
he sees not what I used to be,
but he sees Jesus.**

**I am covered over
with the robe of righteousness
that Jesus gives to me.**

**I am covered over
with the precious blood of Jesus
and he lives in me.**

**What a joy it is to know
my heavenly Father loves me so
and gives to me my Jesus,
when he looks at me
he sees not what I used to be,
but he sees Jesus.**

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OFFERING PRAYER

**Heavenly Father,
thank you for all you have given us in your beloved Son,
who humbled himself and overcame temptation for our sake.
As Jesus offered himself fully to your will,
so we now offer these gifts and ourselves into your hands.
Use what we bring to serve your purposes in the world,
that many may know the life,
hope, and mercy found in Christ alone. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert. Let us pray for all who hunger in body or soul, that our Father in heaven would satisfy their needs.

Dear Father in Heaven: we pray for all those who are faced with temptations or trials that seem too great for them. Keep all your people strong in the face of temptation, teach us all to rely on you at dark times of attack, and let your Word be our only strength.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Bless those in positions of leadership so that they can lead wisely and with justice, and so that they may resist all temptation to abuse your power.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for young Christians and those whose faith is fragile, that they may be strengthened against the temptation of unbelief. Help us to support each other at moments of weakness and give us the strength to stand strong for others. Support all believers, and don't let them ever be put to shame for their beliefs.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who are preparing for baptism or confirmation currently and we ask that you use this time of preparation to strengthen and grow their faith in you.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Stand by all those who are hungry or homeless. Let us be your hands and feet and give us strength to help those in need. Keep those who are struggling with illness strong in their faith, so they can lean on you through the tough times ahead. We especially pray for your healing over *(insert name(s) here)*.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for God's guidance and blessings for all members and friends of our congregation. Today we pray for Bob & Jenny; June, April; Elaine; Dorothy

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for God to bless the families, students, and staff at all our Grace Places; today we pray specially for GLPS Students Archie & Tiffany in Prep; Joseph in Year 2; Ivy, Oliver & Teddy in Year 3; Sienna, Jack & Macy in Year 4; Henry & Aria in Year 5; William & Laila in Year 6; and staff members Ethan R & Kasey S. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father in heaven, receive the prayers of your sons and daughters who seek your favour. Free us from all evil, so that we may serve you in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING TO SHARE

May the Spirit who came upon Jesus at his baptism be with you.
May the Spirit who came upon Jesus at his baptism be with you.
May God make you strong to do what is right and good.
May God make you strong to do what is right and good.
May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you
May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you. Amen.

O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

**O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
give us Your strength, Your skill, and trust
in God's eternal Word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed
and fixed Your mind above:
so teach us to forget our self
since we have known God's love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.**

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