

Sunday, February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent, Year A

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us
and dishonor you:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering
for your word:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving
ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and
hope in the world:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and
discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth
to life:

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

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.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each
occasion. The following examples may be
adapted or used as appropriate.*

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by
God's presence, let us pray for the world and
its needs.

A brief silence.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble.
Surround all living in places of violence with
your steadfast love and give resilience to all
who work for peace. Grant courage to those
who challenge, especially around issues of
racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O
God.

Your mercy is great.

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. (*Especially we pray
for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community.
For any among us who hunger for bread, bring
nourishment. For any among us who hunger
for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us,
O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

Offering Prayer

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.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

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