

# Intercessory Prayers

## Sunday, March 1, 2026

### Second 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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of  
baptism you bring us to new birth to live as  
your children. Strengthen our faith in your  
promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up  
your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

#### 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.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages (*like George Herbert whom the church remembers today*), give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores  
our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for  
the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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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## Upcoming Commemorations

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