

# 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

PASTOR ED PEASE

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.*

(\*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

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## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me" #325

### **\*Greeting**

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

### **\*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.**

### **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.*

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

<sup>3:1</sup> 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?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **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.*

<sup>12</sup> 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 <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not

reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation -- p. 142**

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

\*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**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.*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children's Message**

## Message

Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #504

### **\*Apostles Creed**

**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**

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 Barb, Carla, Barb, Diane, Bill, Ed, Pat, Jeni, Kenny, and Jayme). 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.**

**\*Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Offering**

**\*Offering Prayer**

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

**\*Thanksgiving at the Table** p.144

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

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

**Communion (continuous)**

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats may remain seated.

*Distribution Hymns: #922 ACS – When We Are Tested; #599 – Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

**\*Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn** “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” #808

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Baptized believers sent into God’s world to share God’s love and grace.**

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**Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!**

**Pastor Ed Pease:**

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- A special welcome to any visitors! Please take the time this morning to fill out the visitor card located with the hymnals and either place it on the offering plate or give it to an usher.
- There is a confirmation sign-up sheet for adult volunteers on the usher’s table.
- There is a sign up on the usher’s table for the fellowship and visitation committee. If you are interested, please sign up on the usher’s table.
- During the season of Lent, our midweek Lent services will look a little different. Every week we will do dinner and worship at 6:00 PM. Below you will find the schedule as to who will be providing meals each week. We are excited about this new time to build community and share in a time of fellowship and praise with one another.

February 25	Council
March 4	KidZone
March 11	Men’s Group
March 18	Women of the Congregation
March 25	Potluck – A Taste of Trinity

**This Week’s Events: February 22 – March 1**

Today	9:00am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
Tues.	7:00pm	<b>AA Meeting</b> (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	3:30pm	<b>KidZone</b>
	6:00pm	<b>Mid-Week Lent Supper and Worship</b>
Sun.	9:00am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>

**Worship Assistants for February:**

Organist: Ruth Chartier  
Scripture Reader: Liz Wahlberg  
Tech Assistant: Rebecca Brockhaus  
Greeters: Denny Bain

Greeters Next Week: Gail & Cindy Ploen

Altar Guild: Rotating  
Offertory Accountants: Blake & Sadie Stratton

**Worship Assistants for March:**

Organist: Ruth Chartier  
Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp  
Tech Assistant: Kari Collins

Altar Guild: Gail & Cindy Ploen  
Offertory Accountants: Denny Bain & Irv Martin

**Birthdays:** 24 - Julie Davidson, Alyssa Orlando; 25 - Andrew Henschen; 26 - Teren Davidson, Ivy Rogers

**Prayers**

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.

**God’s Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!**

**Our budget needs each week: \$3,175**

Electronic Giving	\$ 820.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$ 1,370.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,190.00

