



THE GREAT LITANY & HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR A)

FEBRUARY 22, 2026: 10:00 A.M.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Seekers, believers, and doubters of all ages, welcome home to St. Andrew's! Everything you need for the Liturgy of the Word is found in your bulletin. Music may be found in this bulletin and in the blue 1982 Hymnal (in the pew rack). Restrooms are downstairs in the undercroft; our greeters can direct you to a more accessible restroom in the parish house as well.

Children of all ages are welcome to join us in our Soft Space, located by the St. Andrew's flag up front, during worship. Please move around our space as you and your children are most comfortable. Visitors, we would love to get to know you, and we invite you to fill out one of our welcome cards and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of our greeters. *We are so glad you are here!*

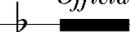
Prelude

You are invited to prepare for worship in silent meditation and prayer.

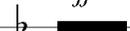
THE GREAT LITANY

Please kneel or stand as you are able and sing responsively.

Hymn #S-67 & The Book of Common Prayer, p. 148

Officiant  *People* 

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 

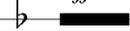
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant 

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

People 

preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

Officiant 

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

Officiant 

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

People 

People Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



Cantor From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,



People Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

Cantor From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

People Good Lord, deliver us.



Cantor We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,



People We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

People We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Cantor That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor: That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

People: **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children, and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

People: **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

People: **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to grant to all faithful departed eternal life and peace,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

Cantor That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of St. Andrew and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**



Officiant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

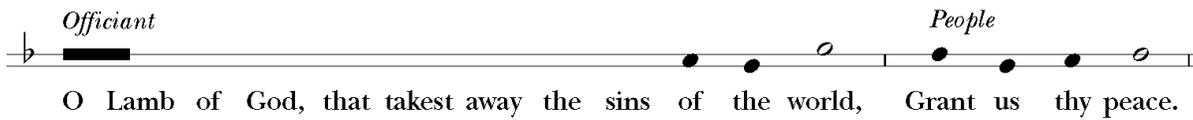
People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

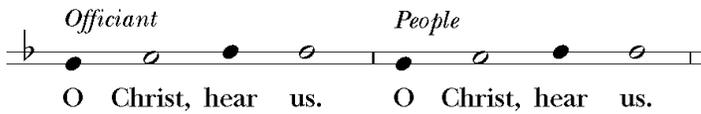
People O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

Officiant *People*



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

Officiant *People*

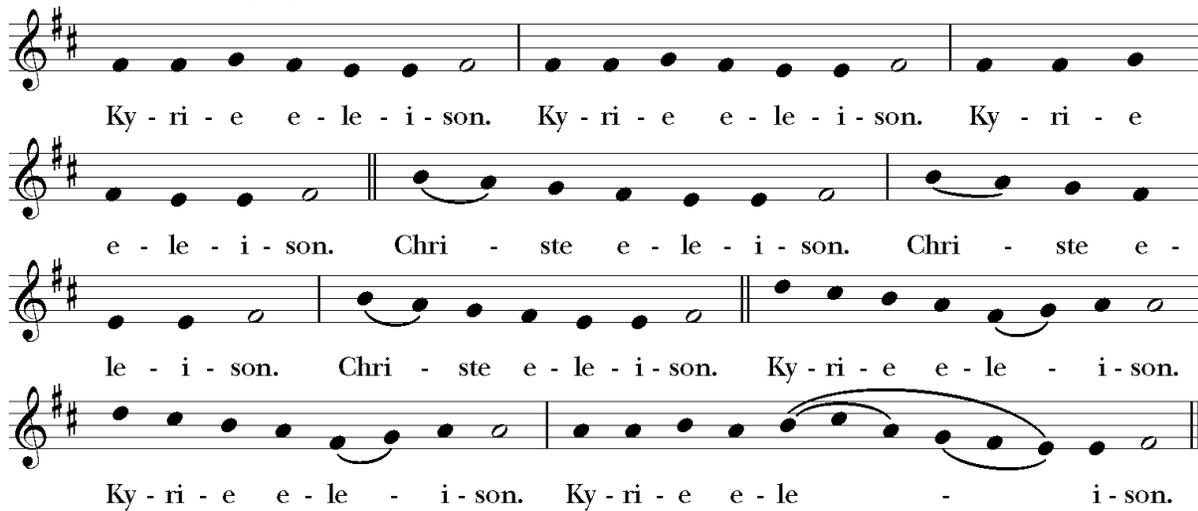


O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

Kyrie Eleison

Hymn #S-86

Sung by all. Please remain standing as you are able.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 239

Please remain standing as you are able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

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

NRSV

Please be seated.

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 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." 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?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 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.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 32

Psalter for the Christian People

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.



1. (Happy are) they whose transgressions are for-/giv-en, *
and whose sin is / put a-way!
2. Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes / no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there / is no guile!
3. While I held my tongue, my bones withered a-/wäy, *
because of my groaning / all day long.
4. For your hand was heavy upon me day / and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the / heat of summer.
5. Then I acknowledged my sin / to you, *
and did not con-/ceal my guilt.
6. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the / LÖRD." *
Then you forgave the guilt / of my sin.
7. Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of / trou-ble; *
when the great waters overflow, they / shall not reach them.
8. You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from / trou-ble; *
you surround me with shouts of de- / liv-er- ance.
9. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you / should go; *
I will guide you / with my eye.
10. Do not be like horse or mule, which have no under-/stand-ing; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not / stay near you."
11. Great are the tribulations of the / wick-ed; *
but mercy embraces those who trust / in the LORD.
12. Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the / LÖRD; *
shout for joy, all who are / true of heart.
Glory to the Father, and to the / Sön *
and to the / Ho - ly Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is / nów, *
and will be for ever. / Ä - men.

The Epistle

Romans 5:12-19

NRSV

Please be seated.

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

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.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Now let us all with one accord

Hymn #147, verses 1-3

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

NRSV

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus was baptized, he 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn (Continued)

Now let us all with one accord

Hymn #147, verse 4

Sung by all. Please remain standing as you are able.

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn Collins

Please be seated.

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

Said by all. Please stand as you are able.

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 man. 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 in glory 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.

Thanking our Outgoing Vestry Members

The Peace

BCP, p. 360

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

Please sit.

Offertory Anthem

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant

Please remain seated.

Presentation Hymn

O Love, how deep

Hymn #449, Verses 1, 3, 4, 6

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

Please remain standing as you are able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord: who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymn S124

Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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 Father of all. He 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 Lord 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."

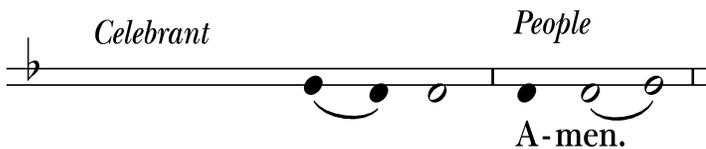
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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.

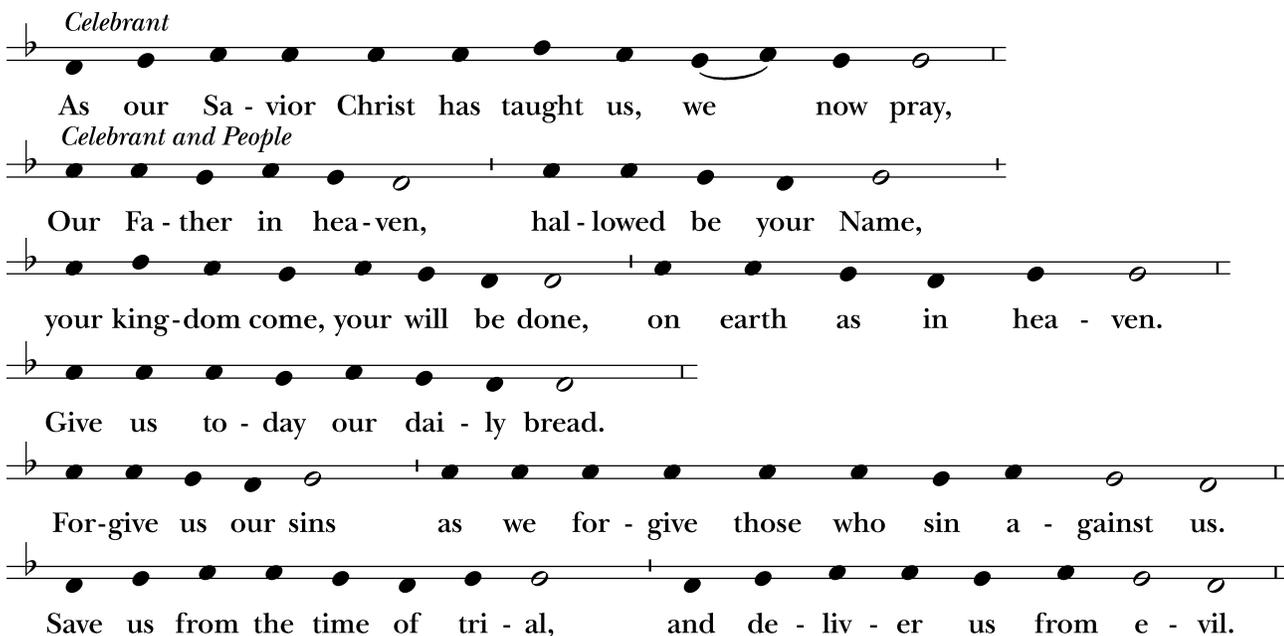
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.



Hymn #S142

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #S148



For the king-dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem

Hymn #S157

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Invitation to the Table

All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is offered in both kinds, bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those who do not wish to receive the Eucharist may come forward and simply cross their hands over their chest to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would prefer to have communion brought to you in your seat.



1. You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -
 2. Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and
 3. For to the an - gels God's giv - en a com - mand to



bide in his sha - dow for life, say to the Lord: "My
 fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der God's wings your
 guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"
 ref - uge with faith - ful - ness your shield.
 bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



"And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the



sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You are invited to kneel as you are able.

Celebrant Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

The glory of these forty days

Hymn #143

Sung by all. Please remain standing as you are able and turn to face the cross as it passes you.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God!

Postlude

THIS MORNING'S LEADERS

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn Collins *Organist & Choirmaster:* Demas Boudreaux

Crucifer: Dwight Johnson *Altar Guild:* Dale Holcomb *Teller:* Steve Salter

Lay Readers: Elaine Baur & Nayeli Baur-Millward *Cantors:* Tracey Miles & Michael Delano

Lead Greeter: Mike Culver *Soft Space:* Laura Boucher

Sunday Steward of the Day: Brian Millward *Email your vestry:* vestry@standrewsoregonhill.org

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Pat Bridgewater, Barbara Butler, The Comissiong and Williams family, Ellen Field, Mil Floyd, Patrick Getlein, Sandra Heitzler, Bill Jackson, Crystal Munnings, Deya Porter & family, Brick Quinn, Lizzie Schrass, Carol Slonaker, the Thompson-White family, Jim Uzel, Chris Vega.
- Pray for those who live and work and go to school on Oregon Hill and for ministry of St. Andrew's School.
- Pray for the coming of God's realm in Metropolitan Richmond: For the enhancement of our common life through the Holy Spirit, and for the resurrection of metropolitan Richmond as a modern metropolitan city of hope for the world.
- Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially Christine Baur-Millward (2/26).

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, February 22: The First Sunday in Lent

- **Holy Eucharist Rite II:** 10:00 a.m., church and on Facebook
- **Coffee Hour:** after the service, Chapel
- **Vestry Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., St. Andrew's House

Tuesday, February 24

- **Lenten Bible Study:** 6:00 p.m., on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89572648766?pwd=2MTdQKlQhA9CmTnUzKE9iDNBRbDwhx.1>

Sunday, February 29: The Second Sunday in Lent

- **Holy Eucharist Rite II:** 10:00 a.m., church and on Facebook
- **Coffee Hour:** after the service, Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Lenten Bible Study on Zoom Begins Feb. 24:** Join us on Zoom at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday during Lent for Bible study with Rev. Lynn! We'll use the book, *Following Jesus Through Mark: A Guide to Faith in Action*. We have a few copies of the book. Copies are also available for purchase as a paperback or a Kindle book on [Amazon](#). Please see Rev. Lynn for more information. Zoom meeting ID: 895 7264 8766, passcode: 061688. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89572648766?pwd=2MTdQKIQhA9CmTnUzKE9iDNBRbDwhx.1>
- **Is Your All at the Altar?** Now through Holy Week, you'll find a wooden box, paper, and writing utensils next to the baptismal font. You are invited to write out your concerns and troubles that you cannot seem to let go, those spiritual things and memories that hold you in bondage and interfere with your relationship with God. Then, tuck them in the bag there. No one on earth will read them, but they will ascend to our Lord God as we use them to light the new fire at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4.
- **Our leaders have finalized our 2026 budget, but it's not too late to pledge!** Pledge cards are available in the narthex, or you can [pledge online](#) using this QR Code to the right.
- **Updated Directory Available:** If you would like a copy, have changes to your information, or have questions or concerns, *please see or email Britton Trimble for the new, updated link* at office@standrewsoregonhill.org. Please do not share your copy of the directory and please do not distribute information contained in this directory outside of our parish family.
- **Office Hours:** Britton Trimble, our Parish Administrator, works from home on Mondays and Tuesdays, works 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and takes a sabbath on Fridays and Saturdays.
- **Paige Trivett's Ordination to the Diaconate (Transitional):** St. Andrew's own Paige Trivett will be ordained on Saturday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Dunstan's, 1830 McLean, VA 22101. All are invited! The service will also be livestreamed on St. Dunstan's [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel. If anyone would like to carpool, check with Britton Trimble at office@standrewsoregonhill.org.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Blessings Fence:** We invite you to bring handmade, purchased, or gently used items and place them on the fence as you arrive at church. If the weather is inclement, you are invited to drop your items in the collection box in the narthex. Scarves, gloves, hats, socks, and coats of all sizes are all welcome!



Seekers, believers, and doubters of all ages:
Welcome home to St. Andrew's!

Together we are building a community in Christ that gathers to
worship joyfully, love abundantly, and serve wholeheartedly.

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Lenten Devotion, Week One: "We Stand Strong in Tests of Our Faith"

Scripture: *Matthew 4:1-11*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward 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 glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then 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.

Reflection:

On this first week of Lent, we reflect on Jesus' testing in the wilderness in preparation for his public ministry. As we prepare our hearts for Jesus' death & resurrection, we can use this season to pay attention to the ways in which our faith is tested in this time of great uncertainty and in our public life. We can examine our challenges to understand how they expose our fears, our cynicism, our anger, our grief, and our lament. We can respond to ourselves with gentleness & grace, knowing that we are not alone in our testing. Jesus has gone before us and stays with us.

Practice:

Our practice this week is to pay attention to the ways in which our faith is tested.

Prayer:

God of light, open our eyes to the ways our faith is challenged by fear, cynicism, anger, grief, and lament. Hold us with grace that we may open our hearts to be your children of the light.



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