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February 26, 2023

The First Sunday in Lent

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Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

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## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“A Mighty Fortress”

- ♪ A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe. With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
- ♪ No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
- ♪ Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage. His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.
- ♪ God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!

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## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;

**Let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!**

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,

**And I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.**

*Psalm 43:3-4*

## Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we are sinful people. We have inherited the legacy of original sin from our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed You in Eden. We are by nature sinful and unclean. In our daily lives we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

God is gracious and forgiving. He has shown His merciful power in ways that renew, restore, and heal. To those who come to Him with repentant and contrite hearts, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

♪ Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

~In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find, Rest, beyond the river.

♪ Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star Sheds its beams around me. ~In the cross...

♪ Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;  
Help my walk from day to day With its shadows o’er me. ~In the cross...

♪ Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand Just beyond the river. ~In the cross....

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 385 -Text: Fanny J. Crosby 1820-1915;  
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## **Old Testament Reading**

Genesis 3:1–21

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And 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 midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely 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 themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I

heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;

on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup>The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

## The Epistle

Romans 5:12–19

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For 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.

## Gradual Hymn *Alternate Tune: “Sweet Hour of Prayer”*

“The Tree of Life”

♪ The tree of life with ev'ry good In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.

♪ The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken, as the serpent strove  
 With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam too by sin defile.  
 O day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
 Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.

♪ What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by His grace:  
 In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need-  
 For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,  
 Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's head!

♪ Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in His name;  
 For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.  
 And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,  
 To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good.

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## **Holy Gospel** *Please Stand*

Matthew 4:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And 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,

“‘Man shall 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 set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall 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, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

## **Apostles' Creed**

### **Preschool Sings** *Please Be Seated*

### **Children's Message**

### **Handbell Choir**

### **The Hymn**

“The Old Rugged Cross”

♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
 And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
 For a world of lost sinners was slain.

~So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
 I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
 For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
 To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...

♪ In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;  
 For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died  
 To pardon and sanctify me. ~So I'll cherish...

♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
 Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
 Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

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## Proclamation of the Word

“Who Is Leading You?”

Matthew 4:1

## Offering and Musical Offering

### Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

### Lord's Prayer

### Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Lamb of God”

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side  
 To walk upon this guilty sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.

~O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!  
 O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!

♪ Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
 The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. ~O Lamb...

♪ I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side  
 To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

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## Postlude