

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 22, 2026
“God’s Answer for Your Guilt”

THE OPENING HYMN #656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main

A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;

He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain

That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,

dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is; Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main eth.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:1, 5b)**

(Silence for reflection on our lives and God's Word)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

(The extinguishing of the Lenten candle)

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT *Psalm 91:9-13; antiphon: vs. 15-16*

P: “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him;

C: I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

P: With long life will I satisfy him

C: and show him My salvation.”

P: Because you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—

C: then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

P: For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

C: they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

P: You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him;

C: I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

P: With long life will I satisfy him

C: and show him My salvation.”

THE KYRIE “Lord, Have Mercy” (LSB, page 186)



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 3:1-21 (ESV)

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?’” And 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 midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely 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 themselves loincloths. 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. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 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.” 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. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He shall crush your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” To the woman He said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire

shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” 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; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 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.” The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 5:12-19 (ESV)

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—for sin indeed was in the world before the Law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no Law. 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. 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. 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. 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. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(spoken)* Ephesians 6:11

C: Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: *(spoken)* Glory to You, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. And 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, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'” [Deuteronomy 8:3]. Then the devil took Him to the Holy City and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple 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'” [Psalm 91:11,12]. Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, 'You

shall not put the Lord your God to the test” [Deuteronomy 6:16]. 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, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve’” [Deuteronomy 6:13]. Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(spoken)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE *What Benefits Does Baptism Give?* From Luther’s Small Catechism *What benefits does Baptism give?* It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. *Which are these words and promises of God?* Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #562 *"All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"*



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon
2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in
3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and
4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came To bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our
deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our



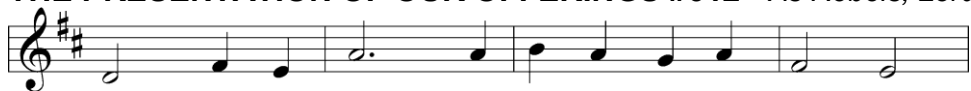
curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.
dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
light, our way, Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

**5 As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.**

**6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
This grace our ev'ry way attend
Until we reach our journey's end.**

THE SERMON *"God's Answer for Your Guilt"* Text: Genesis 3:1-21

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #612 “As Rebels, Lord”



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered
 2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,
 3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—
 Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;
 We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,
 All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing
 “Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?
 As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.
 Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace.”

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(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Lord, in Your mercy,” “hear our prayer.”)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

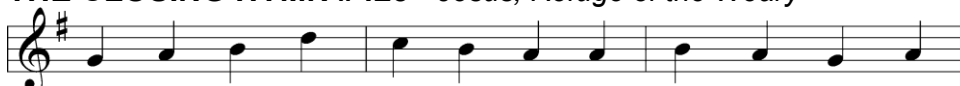
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✕ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #423 *"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"*



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
 pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS