

1st Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026

Opening Hymn #528 (v. 1, 3, 5, 15)
If God Himself Be For Me

1. If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

3. I build on this foundation,
That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation,
The true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases
Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I owe to Jesus
Alone my love are worth.

5. He canceled my offenses,
Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses
My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful,
Bold, and undaunted aye;

In Him I am not fearful
Of God's great Judgment Day.

15. My heart for joy is springing
And can no more be sad,
'Tis full of mirth and singing,
Sees naught but sunshine glad.
The Sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
That which I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing.

Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and
confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners
confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean
and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and
deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Je-
sus Christ.

P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪Amen.

Gloria Patri

C ♪Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Salutation

P The Lord be with you

C ♪And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪Amen

The First Lesson – Genesis 3:1-21

¹Now 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’?” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but 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.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸And 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. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then

the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵I 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." ¹⁶To 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." ¹⁷And 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; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By 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." ²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 32:1-7

Antiphon – Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

²Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iq-
uity;*

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to
the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.**

⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a
time when you | may be found;*

**surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not |
reach him.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trou-
ble;*

you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

Antiphon – Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

The Second Lesson – Romans 5:12-19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet 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. ¹⁵But 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷If, 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. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For 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.

Verse of the Day – Ephesians 6:11

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

The Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and 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.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is

written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Confession of Faith

Apostle’s 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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #774 WS

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2. With might of ours can naught be done;
Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant One
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?"
Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord.
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill:
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain,
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will--
Hate, steal, hurt, or kill--
Though all may be gone,
Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!

Sermon Text – Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon

Jesus' Righteous Obedience to the Father Leads to the Justification of All

Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Merciful Father, though You gave us stewardship of Your good creation, we tend to love the gifts more than the giver. Save us from trusting in our possessions more than in Your Son. Teach us to use what You have provided to help those in need and to relieve the poor, the unemployed and the oppressed.

**1. 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. ...**

P: O Lord, in the midst of this life we are beset by many temptations. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us and resisted to the point of death, and bring us through the evils of this fallen world to dwell with You forever.

**Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned**

Against whose eating God had warned.

P: Almighty God, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness.

**2. The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile
And Adam too by sin defile. ...**

P: Merciful Father, though we deserve nothing of Your kindness, You have shown Yourself to be the strength of the weak, the healer of the sick and the hope of those who mourn. Hear us on behalf of those who are troubled in mind or body, the dying and those who grieve [*especially* _____]. Sustain them through their afflictions and pain, heal them according to Your gracious will and deliver them at the last to everlasting life in Christ.

**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.**

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us a refuge from the world in the Body of Christ. Protect us from all evils of body and soul, that we would find rest in this life and eternal rest in Your heavenly embrace;

**3. 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 -- ...**

P: Almighty God, preserve all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As Your Son overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, so also give us the victory through Christ and His Word.

**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!**

P: O Lord, You have established earthly authorities to punish evil and to praise those who do good. Grant our rulers humble hearts to resist the allure of power and to worship You alone.

**4. 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. ...**

P: Almighty God, You covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of Your Son's body and blood by which we are cleansed and clothed in righteousness.

**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.**

P: All this, and whatever else You know that we need, we pray in the name of **please stand** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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 upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn #372

Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

1. Through Jesus' blood and merit
I am at peace with God;
What, then, can daunt my spirit,
However dark my road?
My courage shall not fail me,
For God is on my side;
Though hell itself assail me,
Its rage I may deride.

2. There's naught that me can sever
From the great love of God;
No want, no pain, whatever,
No famine, peril, flood.
Though thousand foes surround me,
For slaughter mark Thy sheep,
They never shall confound me,

The victory I shall reap.

3. Yea, neither life's temptation
Nor death's so trying hour,
Nor angels of high station,
Nor any other power,
Nor things that now are present,
Nor things that are to come,
Nor height, however pleasant,
Nor depths of deepest gloom.

4. Nor any creature ever
Shall from the love of God
This wretched sinner sever;
For in my Savior's blood
This love its fountain taketh;
He hears my faithful prayer
And nevermore forsaketh
His own dear child and heir.

Silent Prayer

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