

FIRST SUNDAY IN

LENT

FEBRUARY 22

ST.
STEPHEN'S

SSLV.ORG

the wilderness around the Jordan River

Worship Leaders February 22, 2026

Presider The Rev. Nic Mather

Musician. Riki Davis

Acolyte

Altar Guild Becky Edmiston, Lisa Harrington

Reader. John Edmiston,

Greeter. Janice Stixrud

Chalice Bearer. Lisa Sudar, Lucy Claxton

Usher. Greg Lopic

Vergier. John Edmiston

Vestry Presence. Mike Claxton, Greg Moore

Coffee Hour Mel Wright, D Rowley

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully **acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to **welcome all people just as God created you**. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!



Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



THE GREAT LITANY

(Please stand in body or spirit)

The Great Litany includes an invocation of the Trinity; a series of deprecations which seek deliverance from evil, spiritual harm, and natural calamities; a series of obsecrations which plead the power of Christ's Incarnation, life, death, and resurrection for deliverance; prayers of general intercession; the Agnus Dei; and the Kyrie

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #67 The Great Litany

The Officiant at the Litany may be a lay cantor.

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 

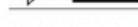
Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

Officiant  *People* 

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

Officiant 

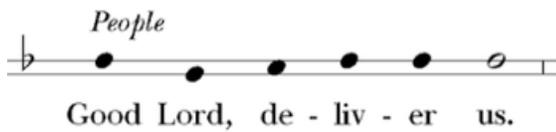
From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

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

People 

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory,
and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the
deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness
of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,
Good Lord, deliver us.

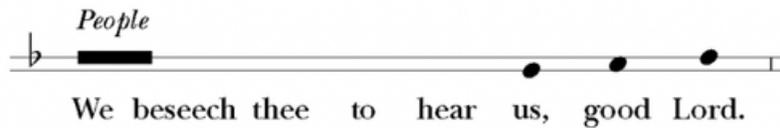
From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and
flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from
violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity
and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

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,
Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in
the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,
Good Lord, deliver us.



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,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,

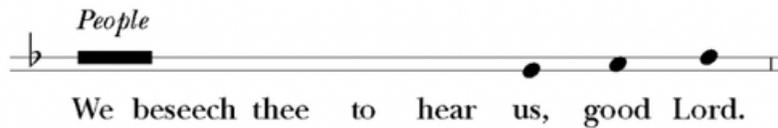
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.



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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

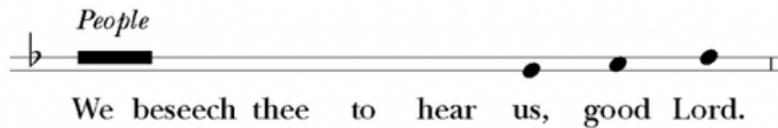
That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners
and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are
desolate and oppressed,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by
reason of their labor or their travel,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.



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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of Stephen and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,
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 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.



Officiant O Christ, hear us. *People* O Christ, hear us.

When the litany is sung immediately before the Eucharist, the Litany concludes with the Kyries (which may be sung to any setting), and the Eucharist begins with the Salutation and the Collect of the day.



Officiant Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
People Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
Officiant Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.**

A reading from Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

1. Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 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 away, *
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 conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 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 understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A reading from Romans 5:12-19

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional (*please stand in body or spirit*)

1. Crea - tor of the earth and skies, to whom the words of life be - long,
grant us your truth to make us wise: grant us your power to make us strong

The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew 4:1-11
Praise to you, O Christ.

Jesus 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.

The Gospel of our Savior.
Glory to you, O Christ.

Gospel Recessional



Teach us to know and love you, Lord, and humbly fol - low in your way.



Speak to our souls the quick - ening word, and turn our dark - ness in - to day.

Homily-The Rev. Nic Mather

THE NICENE CREED

(Please stand in body or spirit)

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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:

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._____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

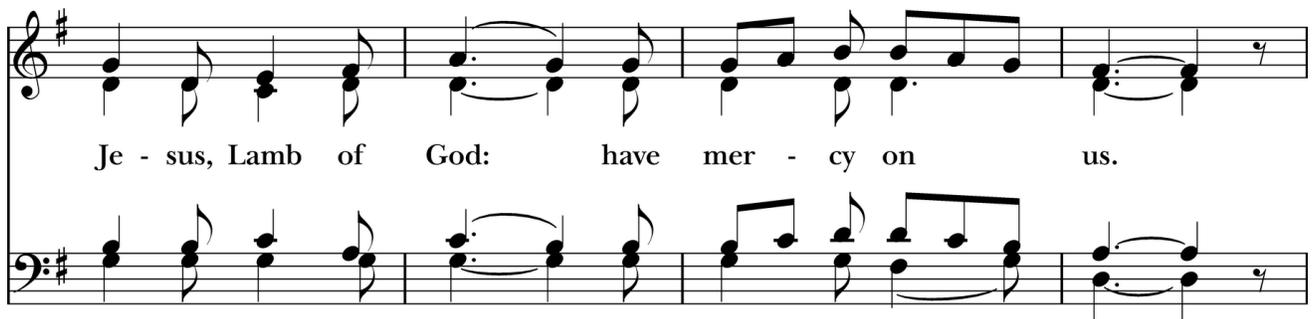
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

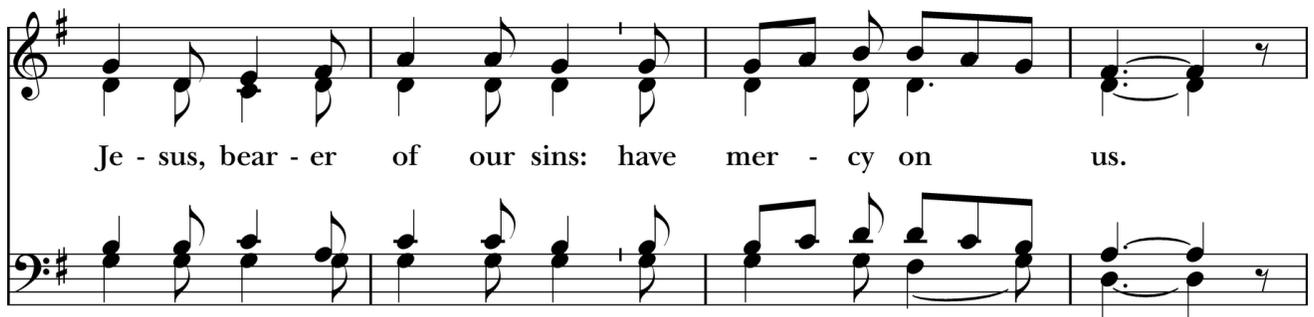
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

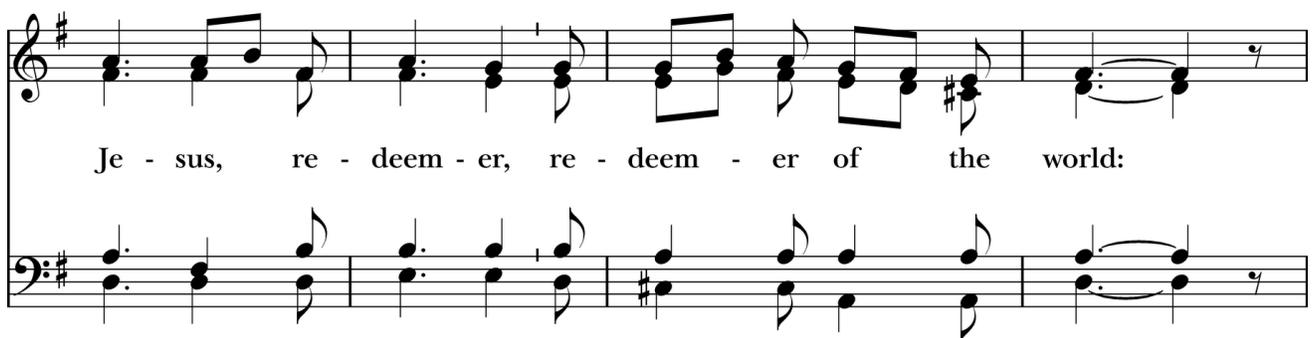
The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept.



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Gifts of God, for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hands and the chalice bearer will intinct for you. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request. You may also place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. **Know that ALL who God calls to the table are welcome here this day.***

For those joining via Live-Stream: A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist by St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. **Amen.**

Forty Days and Forty Nights



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing
 2. Shall not we your sor - row share And from world - ly
 3. Then, if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it
 4. So shall we have peace di - vine; Ho - lier glad - ness
 5. Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, Ev - er con - stant



in the wild; For - ty days and for - ty nights
 joys ab - stain, Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer,
 to as - sail, Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness,
 ours shall be. 'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine,
 by your side, That with you we may ap - pear



Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 Grant we may not faint nor fail!
 Such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 At the e - ter - nal East - er - tide.

Text: George H. Smyttan, 1822–1870, alt.

Tune: HEINLEIN, 7 7 7 7; attr. to Martin Herbst, 1654–1681, *Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch*, 1676

Postcommunion Prayer

(Please kneel in body or spirit)

Let us pray.

**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.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Please stand in body or spirit)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! If you are new today, please take a welcome packet (found in the pew or at the front door) and if you feel comfortable, introduce yourself to Fr. Nic!

Now let us all with one accord

The Hymnal 1982, #147



1 Now let us all with one ac - cord, in
 2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to
 3 Your love, O Lord, our sin - ful race has
 4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in
 5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so



1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our
 2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -
 3 not re - turned, but fal - si - fied; au - thor of mer - cy,
 4 your own i - mage were we made; help us, lest in anx -
 5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for



1 heaven - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.
 2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.
 3 turn your face and grant re - pent - ance for our pride.
 4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.
 5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

Words: Att. Gregory the Great (540-604); tr. *Praise the Lord*, 1972, alt. James Quinn, SJ. Printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. Thomas Foster (b. 1938).

Community Invitations:

The Path: Bible Study, Sundays @ 9am

- Meets most Sundays for 12 weeks, you can attend as often or as infrequent as your schedule allows
- Uses The Path: A Journey Through the Bible, study guide taking excerpts from Genesis through Revelation to bring forward the consistent themes of our faith as experienced through the text. Can be purchased at Amazon or Forward Movement.

Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation Class

- Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25 @ 6pm for evening prayer, 6:30pm for a simple soup dinner, and 7pm when the class begins
- Learning about our faith and preparation for baptism (Easter) or a formal commitment to the Episcopal Church with our Bishop (visiting on Sunday April 12) or simply to learn more about our tradition and faith!
- ALL are invited to attend, from newcomers to long-time members, this is a special formation opportunity that is truly unique in our church and will have a very real impact in your faith practice!

Bill Norvell Memorial Service, Friday, February 27 @ 10:30am

Lent Fish Fry, Friday March 27 @ 5pm

- RSVP to the Office or by filling out the RSVP information from your email!
- ALL are invited, with a capacity for 80 attendees so RSVP today!

Holy Week

- March 29-Palm Sunday 10:30am
- March 31-Renewal of Ordination Vows 7pm
- April 2-Maundy Thursday 6pm
- April 3-Good Friday Noon
- April 4-The Great Vigil of Easter (with Baptisms) 6pm
- April 5-Easter Sunday 10:30am
 - Easter Sunday Brunch Potluck: Please bring a dish as follows:
 - Last Name A-H: Dessert
 - Last Name I-O: Main Dish
 - Last Name P-W: Side Dish

Bishop Phil LaBelle Visitation: Sunday April 12 @ 10:30am

- Confirmations, Receptions, & Reaffirmations
- Festive Coffee Hour to follow!