

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** ... In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE OFFERING

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

## COMMUNION

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

### BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the Holy Trinity: God calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

HYMN #624 — *Jesus, Still Lead On*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



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# First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

## WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for Your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in Christ's righteousness. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your

sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

## **HYMN #319 — *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days***

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And, also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again, and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING — *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. 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 you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal the Lord God had made. The serpent 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 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 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 the tree was good for food, and it was a delight to the eyes, and 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 they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### **READING — *Romans 5:12-19***

Just as sin came into the world through one human being, 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 trespass of one human, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one human, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the sin of one human being. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the trespass of one, 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, Jesus Christ. Therefore,, just as the trespass of one person led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one person leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the disobedience of one the many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL — *Matthew 4:1-11***

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards 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 Jesus 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 Jesus 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, 'God will give you into the angels' charge,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to the devil, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the realms of the world and their splendor, and said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to the devil, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God; serve God alone.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **CHILDRENS' SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford**

### **THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford**

### **HYMN #325 — *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me***

### **APOSTLES' CREED**