

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The First Sunday in Lent
February 22nd, 2026

PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director

THE ANGELUS

The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells



*V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death.

The second three bells

*V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The third three bells

*V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The nine bells

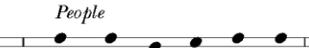


*V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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* 

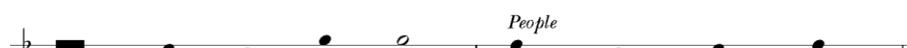
O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

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 forebears; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and by your mercy

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,

People 

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

By the mystery of your holy Incarnation; by your holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by your Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

People 

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

By your Agony and Bloody Sweat; by your Cross and Passion; by your precious Death and Burial; by your glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

People 

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

People 

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

We sinners do beseech you to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please you to rule and govern your holy Church Universal in the right way,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to bless and keep | *all* your people,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to send forth laborers into your harvest, and to draw all humankind in|*to* your kingdom,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive your Word, and to bring forth the fruits | *of* the Spirit,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

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

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give us a heart to love and serve you, and diligently to live after | *your* commandments,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom u|*pon* all peoples,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to show your pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate | *and* oppressed,

People
| 
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all | *may* enjoy them,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which you have given us to do with singleness of heart and for the | *common* good,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to have mercy upon all | *humankind*,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your | *holy* Word,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to | *turn* their hearts,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to grant to all the faithful departed eternal | *life* and peace,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to grant that, in the fellowship of Blessed Mary the God-Bearer, Blessed Gregory our Patron, and all the saints, we may attain to your hea|*venly* kingdom,

People
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and three quarter notes in the second measure.]
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

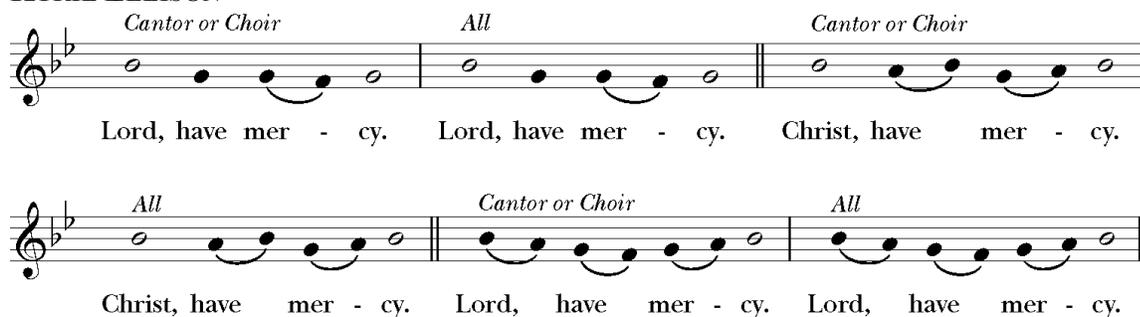
[Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure, quarter notes in the second, a half note in the third, a solid black bar for the fourth, and quarter notes in the fifth.]
Officiant Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.
People Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.

Officiant [Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and quarter notes in the second.] *People* [Musical staff with quarter notes in the first measure and quarter notes in the second.]
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

Officiant [Musical staff with a solid black bar for the first measure and quarter notes in the second.] *People* [Musical staff with quarter notes in the first measure and quarter notes in the second.]
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, Grant us your peace.

Officiant [Musical staff with quarter notes in the first measure and quarter notes in the second.] *People* [Musical staff with quarter notes in the first measure and quarter notes in the second.]
O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

KYRIE ELEISON



The musical notation is written on two staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains three measures of music. The first measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The second measure is marked 'All' and contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The third measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' are written below the first staff. The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains three measures of music. The first measure is marked 'All' and contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The second measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The third measure is marked 'All' and contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the second staff.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND CONFESSION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence is kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant 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.*

THE FIRST READING.....Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE (chanted in unison)Psalm 32

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are for|given, *
and whose sin is put a|way!
- 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 a|way, *
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 de**liverance.**
- 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 under**standing;** *
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.**

THE EPISTLE.....Romans 5:12-19

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott
Music: William Bradley Roberts

O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus! There is
room in my heart for thee. O thee.

THE GOSPEL.....Matthew 4:1-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord 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 the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON.....The Rev. Matthew Wright

THE NICENE CREED

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition, the People sing in response

Lord, hear our prayer. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, in your mer - cy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Text and Music: Liam Lawton, b. 1959; © 1995

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(sung by choir)*

DOXOLOGY *(sung by all, standing in body or spirit)*

Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -

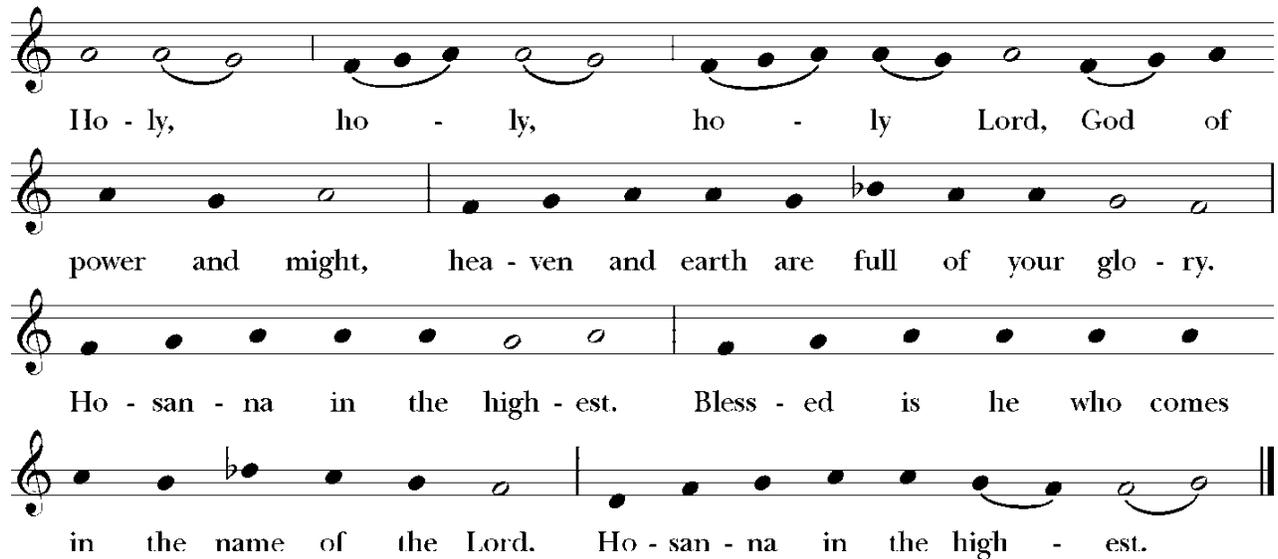
parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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
power 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.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God,
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
 of the most precious Body and Blood
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
 that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
 And now, Father, send us out
 to do the work you have given us to do,
 to love and serve you
 as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN.....*The Hymnal 1982, #143*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
 *5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Leiden*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**