



St. James Episcopal Church

Our commitment: Walk in love with God.

***The First Sunday in Lent
February 22nd, 2026***

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The Reverend Jane Piver

Supply Priest

Tara Ford

Organist-Choir Director

**The First Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist, Rite Two
February 22, 2026**

Prelude: *Prayer for Peace* arr. D. Cherwein / *Variations of Wondrous Love* arr. C. Callahan

Processional: Hymn #149 *Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church* (Please Stand)

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion S-100

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 218

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.**

(please be seated for the Lessons)

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. 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 The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 32 (Please turn to page 624 in the *Book of Common Prayer*)
(we will read responsively as instructed by the Lector)

Second Reading: 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #140 *Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun*

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 (please stand)

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.

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

The Homily: The Reverend Jane Piver

The Nicene Creed (please stand and turn to page 358 in the *Book of Common Prayer*)

Prayers of the People (*please kneel or be seated as you are able*)

(*The congregation will respond with the words in **bolded italics**.*)

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Let us pray to the source of our sustenance, saying, “God, our hiding place, preserve us from trouble.”

Great God, you have called your people to worship and serve you alone. Instill in us such a singleness of heart that we might perfectly trust you to meet our needs.

God, our hiding place, ***preserve us from trouble.***

Great God, we live among many temptations. Free the people of this nation, and this world, from all sinful desires that draw us from the love of God. *Moment of silence.*

God, our hiding place, ***preserve us from trouble.***

Great Creator, you have surrounded us with blessings; you provide enough to meet our needs. And yet, we strive and scheme for more, always more. Have mercy on us. *Moment of silence.*

God, our hiding place, ***preserve us from trouble.***

O Lord, we pray for those bound by addiction, those for whom temptation is a constant threat. Set the captive free. Satisfy their cravings with abundant grace. *Moment of silence.*

God, our hiding place, ***preserve us from trouble.***

Be with the sick and suffering, Great Healer. Be for them a hiding place; preserve them from trouble; surround them with shouts of deliverance. We ask your prayers for **Bill Treiber, Linda Boxley, Anna Lou Flynn, Sunny Agee, Jill Schumacher, Mary-Frances & LaVahn Hoh, Gerry Higgins, Barb Miller, Jimmy & Karen Funke Caldwell, Liz Blanchard, Lydia Hayes, John Steele, Ken, Ted Crackel, William Perry, Sr., Chris Stanley, Kathy Mador, Cathy & Bill Collins, Doris McKamey, Katie Bowles, Kim St. Clair, John Woolfolk, W. A. Dickinson, Glenn, Koralee Vest, Mackenzie Fischer Roper, Mitchell McCotter, Mike Hogan, Paul Loy, Debbie Campbell, John Cochrane, and Nancy Miller.** *Moment of silence.*

God, our hiding place, ***preserve us from trouble.***

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession

The Book of Common Prayer, pg.360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant & 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.

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all yours 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.***

Peace & Greeting *(please stand)*

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

Announcements

Children’s Homily: Debbie Wesley with the Burial of the “Alleluias” during Lent

The Holy Communion

Offering of Gifts and Praise

Celebrant “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!.” *(Psalm 32)*

Anthem: *Call to Lent* arr. Jerome Williams

Doxology *(please stand)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host / Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A *The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 361*

(please remain standing)

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

Sanctus S-125

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please kneel as you are able)

Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

Celebrant and People

The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 364

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant 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.

Fraction Anthem S-157 O Lamb of God

Communion Hymn #147 *Now let us all with one accord* #712 *Dona nobis pacem*

Post-Communion Prayer *(please kneel)* *The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 366*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and ever living 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.

Solemn Prayer

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice forever in the protection of your loving providence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn #142 *Lord, who throughout these forty days*

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Those Who Serve Today

Crucifer: Greg Schumacher

Chalice: Dana Racette

Lector: Dale Williams (8) / Sharon Boivin (10)

Prayers of the People: Kim Williams (8) / Tom Woolfolk (10)

Ushers: Horace & Gerry Higgins

Sunday School: Debbie Wesley / Anna Schick

Altar Guild: Amy Shiflett

Counters: Greg Schumacher / Randy Keil

Intercessions

Church Members: Bill Treiber, Linda Boxley, Sunny Agee, Anna Lou Flynn, Jill Schumacher, Mary-Frances & LaVahn Hoh, Gerry Higgins, Barb Miller

Family of Church Members: Jimmy & Karen Funke Caldwell, Liz Blanchard, Lydia Hayes, John Steele, Ken

Friends of Church Members: Ted Crackel, William Perry, Sr., Chris Stanley, Kathy Mador, Cathy & Bill Collins, Doris McKamey, Katie Bowles, Kim St. Clair, John Woolfolk, W. A. Dickinson, Glenn, Koralee Vest, Mackenzie Fischer Roper, Mitchell McCotter, Mike Hogan, Paul Loy, Debbie Campbell, John Cochrane, Nancy Miller

For the clergy & congregations of Christ Church, Saluda; Emmanuel, Delaplane

For those in military service, especially: Jacob Laws, Garrett & Rebecca Bond, Holly-Ann Hess, Nicholas Boivin, and Jon Geiser

For the Departed: Frances Smith, Norie Shipley (*John Schick's aunt*)

For those celebrating Birthdays/Anniversaries/Thanksgiving this week:

22-Tom Farrell; 23-Jon & Stephanie Koren; 26-Jill Schumacher; 28-Seth Gaulatney; March 01-Graven Craig

Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

We welcome *The Rev. Jane Piver* as our supply priest this morning while Rev. Jennifer enjoys some warmer weather. Thank you for being here with us.

We also welcome all visitors to St. James. If you would like to know more about our church family, please sign a pew card or the guest register on the table in the back. Thank you for joining us this morning.

The greens on the altar are given by Linda & Jim Brickey to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the choir and music of St. James.

Many thanks to all who helped in hosting our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It was a great turnout of parishioners and community members. Well done!!

This year's Lenten study will focus on *Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent*. Sessions will be from 1-2:30pm in the Parish Hall on the following Wednesdays: March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th. All are welcome to join us.