

Order of Service for Home Worship

The First Sunday in Lent

Hymn 1: Forty days and Forty nights.

1. Forty days and forty nights
Though wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled.
2. Sunbeams scorching all the day,
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.
3. Let us then endurance share,
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain.
4. And if Satan, vexing sore,
Flesh or spirit should assail.
Thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint nor fail.
5. So shall we have peace divine,
Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.
6. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side.
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners. Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you plead with us at the right hand of the Father. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Collect:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 32 Response: Forgive us, Lord, the guilt of our sins.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (R)

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me:
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. (R)

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity:

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (R)

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. (R)

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. (R)

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. (R)

A reading from Paul's letter Romans

5. 12-19

Therefore, just 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 judgement 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.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. "Worship the Lord your God", says the Lord. "Serve only him." **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.**

4, 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for 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 splendour; 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: One of the aspects of our Lenten observances which has long been understood by the Church is of Lent being a time when we reflect on the time Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he experienced there, which is recorded for us in our Gospel reading today. Matthew gives a full account of Jesus' time in the wilderness which immediately follows his baptism by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. As Jesus is about to begin his public ministry Matthew tells us how Jesus is led into the wilderness. Questions as to how he will fulfil his mission, what form would his public ministry take may have foremost in his mind. The temptations he faced offered quick answers to these questions. What better way to prove to the people that he was the Son of God than by turning stones into bread or by throwing himself from the temple to be saved by angels or by selling himself to the devil and becoming a populist leader playing on the fear and bigotry of the people. Jesus rejected all these and chose to remain faithful to his heavenly Father, witnessing only to the ways of God, proclaiming his love for all his people. Jesus' experience in the wilderness puts our Lenten observances into context. We have recently come out of the Christmas Epiphany Season of celebration when we celebrated the incarnation, the coming of Jesus to live among us, his people. As his people we are called to work with him in proclaiming the Good News that in Jesus God lives among us, sharing our lives. We face the same questions that Jesus faced as he entered the wilderness. How are we

to fulfil our calling, the ministry that God has entrusted to us. Do we look for ways that will yield quick results which may not last? Do our actions proclaim the presence of God or do they really glorify ourselves and our fellowship? These are the questions which are highlighted by the temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness and they are the temptations we face as we enter this season of Lent as we seek to discern God's will for us and how we should live our the ministry God has entrusted to us. When we look at these questions with open hearts and with honesty God will guide us. He will steer us away from the temptations to seek the easy way, the comfortable way, the novel way, none of which may really help to grow the Kingdom of God in the communities where we live. God will give us the strength we need to move forward and we will emerge from this season of Lent into the glorious light of Easter. We will arrive at Easter with the resurrected Jesus, full of confidence, full of the love of God for us, full of enthusiasm to share our faith with others, ready to fulfil the ministry God has entrusted to us as Jesus fulfilled the earthly ministry God entrusted to him. Amen.

Intercessions: In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own ministry area; that the Church may worship God faithfully and serve only him. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought. We pray especially at this time for the people of Ukraine The Holy Land and the Sudan; that peace may be restored where there is conflict and relief be brought to all who struggle.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; Help us to see you in our neighbours, give us generous hearts
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our intercession books; relieve them according to their need, strengthen them with your Holy Spirit and console them with the love of Christ.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time; welcome them and all the departed into the eternal joy and peace of your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace:

Jesus said, Peace I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

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

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn 2: Lead us, Heavenly Father, Lead us.

- 1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the worlds tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.**
- 2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know.
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert thou didst go.**
- 3. Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**