

# Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Second Sunday in Lent  
Holy Eucharist without Communion  
Sunday, March 1, 2026

# The Word of God

## Penitential Order

**ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 351)**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 351)**

*The people standing, the Presider says*

*Presider*            Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People*             His mercy endures for ever.

**CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 351)**

*The Presider says*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our 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 other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

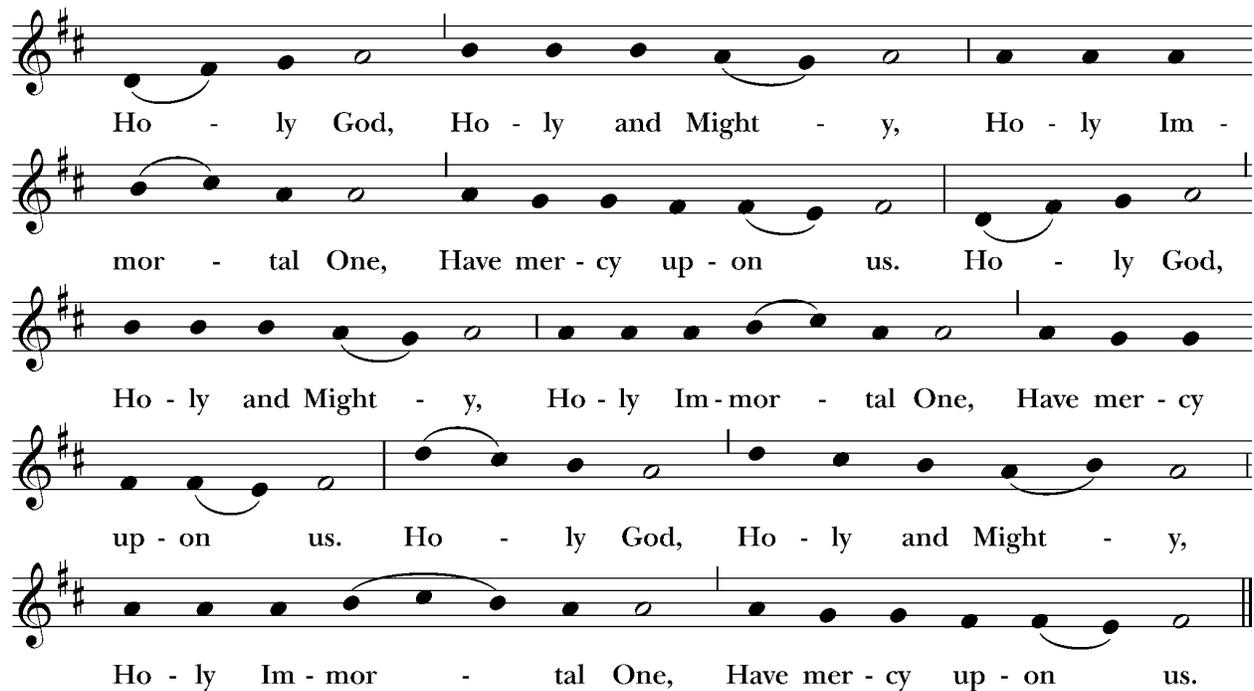
Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake 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 Presider says*

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

**OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE *S 100 Holy God (Hurd)* (BCP p. 356)**

*The following is sung, all standing*



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,  
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy  
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 121**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
    from where is my help to come?  
<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, \*  
    the maker of heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved \*  
    and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
    shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
<sup>5</sup>The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
    the LORD is your shade at your right hand,  
<sup>6</sup>So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
    nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
    it is he who shall keep you safe.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
    from this time forth forevermore.

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

<sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN (BCP p. 357)**

*All stand.*

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

*All stand.*

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

**THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)**

**THE CREED (BCP p. 358)**

*All stand.*

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 (Lent 2026)**

*Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God, but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God.*

*Leader*

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Deon, our Bishop. For our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico. For our companion congregation, All Saints' Farmington. May the wounds of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence;

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for those in authority, particularly Donald, our President, and Michael, our Governor. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray for \_\_\_\_\_. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for \_\_\_\_\_. May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. Especially we hold in our minds \_\_\_\_\_. May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.

### **THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)**

*All stand.*

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)**

*The Presider says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)**

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

*People and Presider*

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,  
    forever and ever. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN (BCP p. 366)**

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

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

**Upcoming Commemorations**

**David of Wales, Bishop, c. 544  
Sunday, March 1, 2026**

**Chad of Lichfield, Bishop, 672  
Monday, March 2, 2026**

**John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**Paul Cuffee: Witness to the Faith among the Shinnecock, 1812  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**William W. Mayo, 1911, and Charles F. Menninger, 1953, and Their Sons, Pioneers in  
Medicine  
Friday, March 6, 2026**

**Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, 202  
Saturday, March 7, 2026**