

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Boldly engaging the world as God's shepherds, sharing God's blessings and creating Heaven on Earth, one person at a time.



Holy Eucharist – 9:00 a.m.

Salutation

Book of Common Prayer p. 319

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People *His mercy endureth for ever.*

Great Litany

Book of Common Prayer p. 148

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Readings

(see 11am service)

The First Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Psalm

Psalm 32

The Second Lesson

Romans 5:12-19

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove

The Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 326

Peace

Announcements

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

Book of Common Prayer p. 333

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei

Prayer of Humble Access

Invitation to Communion

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Prayer Over the People**Dismissal**

Prayer is available at the altar.

Those Who Serve**9:00am:****EMs:** Beth Hitchcock, Deanna DuBose **Lector:** Amy Nicolson;**Usher:** Gil Nicolson; **Altar Guild:** Mary Rose Figura;**VPOD:** Aline Conley; **Ingles cards:** Paul Swanson**Flower Guild:** Flower Guild Team

Holy Eucharist – 11:00 a.m.

Prelude	Ah, Holy Jesus	arr. John Dixon
<i>All stand</i>		
Salutation		Book of Common Prayer p. 351
<i>Celebrant</i>	Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.	

People *His mercy endures for ever.*

The Great Litany

O, God the Father, Creator of the heavens and earth,
Have mercy on us.

O, God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O, God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, one God,
Have mercy on us.

Lord Christ, remember not our sins. Spare your people whom you have saved through your own precious sacrifice,
Spare us, Good Lord.

From all evil and sin; from temptation and our reliance on our own devices,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness; from pride and hypocrisy; from envy and hatred; from all lack of care and concern for the poor,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From false prophets and false doctrine; from hardness of heart and contempt for your teachings and commandments,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From our concern with our own comfort and well-being: from our love of worldly possessions,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From natural disasters; from famine and sickness,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all warfare and violence; from all oppression,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From dying unexpectedly and without knowing your promise of eternal life,
Good Lord, deliver us.

Through your holy Incarnation;
through your baptism in which we share;
through your precious death and burial;
through your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the gift of the Holy Spirit,

Good Lord, deliver us.

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

Good Lord, deliver us.

O Lord, preserve your holy catholic church throughout the world,
Hear us, good Lord.

Illumine the hearts and minds of all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may be for us examples of godly living,

Hear us, good Lord.

Bless those celebrating birthdays especially..., and; those celebrating another year of marriage especially...; bless and keep all your people,

Hear us, good Lord.

Send forth laborers into your harvest, and draw all people into the blessings of your Kingdom,
Hear us, good Lord.

Give us hearts to love and serve you that we may live not only for the well-being of ourselves but for our neighbors,

Hear us, good Lord.

Help those who have strayed from you to return; assist those whose faith is waning to have hope,

Hear us, good Lord.

Rule the hearts of those in authority in all nations, especially President Donald Trump, all members of Congress and the Supreme Court, Governors Josh Stein and Brian Kemp, the members of our vestry and church staff, those who serve in the armed forces of this nation, firefighters and first responders, and all those who keep the peace, that they may do justice and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,
Hear us, good Lord.

Give to all nations a desire to serve the work of peace and unity; grant freedom to those who are oppressed,

Hear us, good Lord.

Inspire us to care for creation; to share the bountiful fruits of the earth in ways that benefit all creatures, even the earth itself,

Hear us, good Lord.

Guard us from the temptation to hoard; from imagining scarcity where you provide abundance,

Hear us, good Lord.

Grant us singleness of heart in our ministries that we may serve the common good,
Hear us, good Lord.

Protect and provide for the very young, and the very old; for those who must labor or travel in situations of danger,
Hear us, good Lord.

Preserve and protect all whose homes are torn by strife,
Hear us, good Lord.

Visit the lonely and strengthen those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit, especially...
and all others who need your healing,
Hear us, good Lord.

Forgive us for our negligence and deliberate ignorance of the suffering among those who we see and fail to serve,
Hear us, good Lord.

Grant to us true repentance; a sincere conversion to the mind and will of Christ,
Hear us, good Lord.

Assist us to forgive our enemies and persecutors, and assist them to a true amendment of life,
Hear us, good Lord.

Grant to the departed eternal life and peace, and especially to those we remember this day...
and to all who put their trust in you,
Hear us, good Lord.

Grant us communion with all your saints, that we may attain your heavenly Kingdom,
Hear us, good Lord.

O, Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O, Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O, Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
Grant us your peace.

O, Christ, hear us.
O, Christ, answer our prayer.

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

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 Lesson

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.*

Psalm 32: (spoken)

Beati quorum

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 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 away, *
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.

The Second Lesson

Romans 5:12-19

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 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.*

Hymn*Now let us all with one accord (vs. 1 & 3)*

Hymnal 147



1 Now let us all with one accord, in
 2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to
 3 Your love, O Lord, our sin - ful race has
 4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in
 5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so



1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our
 2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -
 3 not re - turned, but fal - si - fied; au - thor of mer - cy,
 4 your own i - mage were we made; help us, lest in anx -
 5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for



1 heaven - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.
 2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.
 3 turn your face and grant re - pent - ance for our pride.
 4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.
 5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

Words: Att. Gregory the Great (540-604); tr. *Praise the Lord*, 1972, alt. James Quinn, SJ. Printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. Thomas Foster (b. 1938).

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

After Jesus was baptized, he 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.

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

Hymn *Now let us all with one accord* (v. 4)

Hymnal 147

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove

The Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

Peace

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

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Father, Forgive Us

music by Craig Courtney
lyrics by Pamela Martin

The Presentation of Our Gifts

V. All things come from you, O Lord.
R. *And from your own have we given you.*

Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

Book of Common Prayer p. 361

The people 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.*

The Celebrant proceeds

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 (spoken)*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Post Communion Prayer (kneel or sit)

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.

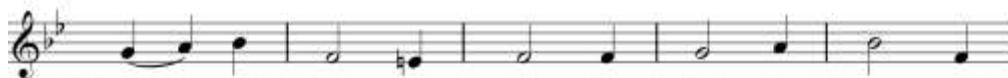
Prayer Over the People

Recessional *O love, how deep, how broad*

Hymnal 448



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in
5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so



1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and
4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
5 went on high to reign: for us he sent his
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom



1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949).

Dismissal

Prayer is available at the altar rail

Those Who Serve:

11:00 am:

EMs: Ron Dutton, Jane Boritz; **Lector:** Michael Wright;
Usher: Mary Ann Miller;

Altar Guild: Jan Freeman, Kathy Marcel, Betsi Wilson;

Altar Linens: Betsi Wilson; **Nursery:** Liz Rybicki, Jean Gora;

VPOD: Phil Cox; **Ingles cards:** Dave & Barb Field; **Videographer:** Tom Griffiths;

Flower Guild: Flower Guild Team; **Greeter:** Jose Arias

Service

Matt's Ministry – Contact Joe Rybicki

Meal Ministry – Contact Kathy Wright

Medical Loan Closet – Contact Helga Reaves

The Order of St. George – Contact Turner Guidry at 828-361-0497

Brotherhood of the Fire – Contact Turner Guidry at 828-361-0497

Meals For Friends – Contact Aline Conley at 504-214-1909

Drivers on **February 24, 2026** are:

Town: Aline Conley

City: Suzy Christensen

Tusquittee: David & Teresa Gribble

Christian Education

Lectionary Bible Study – Currently meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the Library.

This group works through the appointed readings for the following Sunday.

Please contact Fr. Bill for more information.

Episcopal 101-

This course is an introduction and refresher course on the Episcopal Church. If you are new to the Episcopal Church- its history, worship, theology, and way of life. If you are new to the Episcopal tradition, returning after some time away, seeking Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal church, or have questions like "What is the origin of the Episcopal tradition?", "How is the Episcopal church related to other traditions?", "Why do Episcopalians do that?", or

"What do Episcopalians believe?", then this course is for YOU! Sign-up in the Information Hallway if interested.

Parish Life and Church Community

Please check the bulletin board in the hallway for ministries that you have signed up for. If your name isn't on the list or you forgot to sign up for a ministry, please add your name to those ministries. Thank you all for your time and talent.

Lenten Supper Series- Wednesday evenings, beginning **February 25th at 5:30 pm**. This five session program will be led by Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton. Please join us in the Parish Hall at 5:30 pm for a simple dinner of soup, salad and bread followed by the program promptly at **6:00 pm**.

Safe Church Training- Jesus Christ calls us to loving relationships that are healthy and helpful to each other. The obligation to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being is binding for all the baptized. Educating and empowering the people of our diocese is central to creating and maintaining safe churches and activities for everyone. The Diocese of Western North Carolina requires many ministry positions and volunteers to complete Safe Church Training. Safe Church Training will be offered on **two consecutive Saturdays, March 7 and March 14, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM**. Those with fast home internet access may do their safeguarding training at home. Talk with Fr Bill about arranging at-home completion of the safeguarding requirements. Please see the sign-up sheet in the parish hallway.

March 7 - Vestry, Staff, Ministry Heads, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, and Hospital Visitors.

March 14 - Vestry, Staff, Youth and Children and Nursery Volunteers.

Did you know that Good Shepherd's **Mountain of Faith Endowment Fund** provided a no-interest loan for the construction of the Parish Hall? Make plans now to attend the catered dinner on **Friday, March 13th** in the Parish Hall. Come and learn more about how you can participate in supporting the future of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. Sign-up sheets for the dinner are located in the hallway.

The rescheduled **Annual Meeting** will be held **Sunday, March 22**, following a single **10 AM Rite II service**. The Vestry will provide ham and biscuits and invites your donation of a brunch item to share.

Attention all Blood Donors - Good Shepherd will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Monday, March 23rd from 12:30 - 5:30 pm** in the Parish Hall. To make an appointment call 1-800-Redcross (1-800-733-2767) or online at Redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are always welcome but appointments are handled first. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Marcel.

Calendar

Monday

February 23

9:00 am	Exercise Class (Parish Hall)
10:00 am	Women Walking, Women Talking @ Chatuge Dam
10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
11:00 am	Private Group (Undercroft)
11:00 am	Tai Chi (Parish Hall)

Tuesday

February 24

10:00 am	Chair Yoga (Parish Hall)
2:00 pm	Healing Prayer Meeting
5:00 pm	Soaking Prayer
6:00 pm	BOTF
6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting

Wednesday

February 25

9:00 am	Exercise
11:00 am	Moving Meditation (Parish Hall)
11:30 am	Private Group (Undercroft)
12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist
1:00 pm	Lectionary Bible Study
5:30 pm	Lenten Supper Series (Parish Hall)

Thursday

February 26

6:45 am	Order of St. George (Parish Hall)
10:00 am	Chair Yoga (Parish Hall)
6:30 pm	Choir Practice

Friday

February 27

9:00 am	Exercise Class (Parish Hall)
11:00 am	Tai Chi (Parish Hall)

Saturday

February 28

Sunday

March 1

9:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
11:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
12:00 pm	Lunch (Parish Hall)
12:30 pm	Episcopal 101- The Episcopal Church

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton, Theologian in Residence

The Rev. Beverly Braine, Priest Associate

The Rev. Dcn. Turner Guidry (Ret.)

Mary Carol Campbell, Organist

Sharon Kyser, Pianist

Teresa LeMaire, Director of Music

Susan Wyman, Bookkeeper

Kevin Conley, Treasurer

Tawanna Dutton, Assistant Treasurer

Liz Rybicki, Nursery Supervisor

Jon Czarnecki, Sexton

Amanda Farmer, Parish Administrator

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: Betsi Wilson

Sub Sr. Warden: Aline Conley

Jr. Warden: Tawanna Dutton

Sub Jr. Wardens: Jeff King (Grounds Maint.), Barry Benson (Indoor Maint.)

Community Life Team: Jose Arias, Jane Boritz, David Cady, Phil Cox

Class of 2026: Phil Cox, Tawanna Dutton, Betsi Wilson

Class of 2027: Jose Arias, Aline Conley, Jeff King

Class of 2028: Barry Benson, Jane Boritz, David Cady

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