



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NSVILLE, VIRGINIA

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896 • www.christchurchmvl.org
We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Please silence your electronic devices. Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

The Opening Voluntary	"A Mighty Fortress "	Johann Pachelbel
Introit	"Whatsoever they do shall prosper"	Psalm 1
Processional Hymn (standing)	"Now let us all with one accord"	Hymn 147
Celebrant	Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;	BCP 319
People	His mercy endureth for ever.	
Celebrant	Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. <i>Matthew 22:37-40</i>	
Celebrant	Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.	

Celebrant and People, kneeling or standing

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison Sung, standing

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

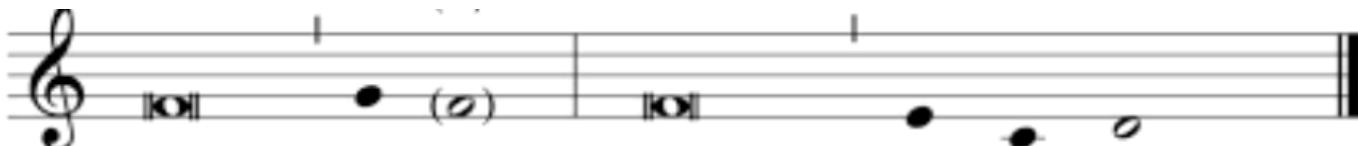
The people sit

Reader 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are for/given, *
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 con/ceal 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 deliverance.

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.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome (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 (standing) "Forty days and forty nights"

Hymn 150

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (4:1-11).
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon "Grace and the Beast of Sin" **The Rev. John Adams**
Ideas to ponder

- Have you ever felt unwell after doing something you knew to be wrong?
- Have you ever unwillingly suffered for sins of others?

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all
worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the
Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;

Standing

BCP 327

and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the
Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the
Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and
the Son;
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and
Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Standing or kneeling

BCP 328

Reader Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Karin, our bishop-elect, and all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of Donald, our President, and all those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor *Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Margaret, Ashley F., Michael, Randy M.* and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

The Peace may be exchanged through handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, waves, nods, or other such expressions; please be attentive to how much or little physical contact your neighbors would prefer. Once the Peace has been sufficiently exchanged, the people may sit for announcements. During the announcements, the Celebrant will invite those who are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this week (or whose recent birthday or anniversary has not yet been prayed for in church) to come forward so we may pray for them.

Offertory Anthem "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" arr. Richard Shephard

The Doxology (*standing*) *(text below)*

Hymnal 380, v. 3

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.

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer I

Standing

BCP 333

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant

BCP 333 - 334

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty... evermore praising thee and saying,

Sanctus Sung

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Kneeling or standing

BCP 334 - 336

All glory be to thee... O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

Celebrant and people

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.

Agnus Dei Sung

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Celebrant and People

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

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.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive at the altar rail, kneeling or standing. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may

come forward and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. After receiving the bread, you may choose to consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the chalice or hold onto the bread and intinct (dip) it into the wine, in which case please hold the wafer in front of you so the chalicer will know to bring you the intinction cup. You may also decline to receive the wine (as the bread in itself is full communion), in which case if you remain at the altar rail please place your arms across your chest to signal the chalicer. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.

Communion Chant	<i>"He has set his love upon me"</i>	Psalm 91
Communion Music	<i>"Bless the Lord My Soul"</i> Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.	Taize

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people	<i>Kneeling or standing</i>	BCP 339
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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 Celebrant offers a Solemn Prayer over the people.

Recessional Hymn	<i>"A mighty fortress is our God"</i>	Hymn 688
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Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Closing Voluntary	<i>"Toccata in C"</i>	Johann Pachelbel
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No flowers during Lent

Lenten Program

Our 2026 Lenten program will take place in the Undercroft on Monday evenings (February 23 through March 23) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. After a light supper of soup, Fr. John will lead Canon Fodder, a program considering the history of how the Bible came to be and what was left out of the canon (the 66 books comprising the Bible as we know it).

Ecumenical Lenten Lunches

The churches of Martinsville are again coming together to offer lunch and a brief devotion at Noon on the Thursdays of Lent. All are invited to attend any or all of these lunches; the devotions will conclude by 1:00 pm. The schedule is:

Feb 26 - First Baptist Church - 23 Starling Ave.

March 5 - First Baptist East Church - 1043 East Church St.

March 12 - First Presbyterian Church - 1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

March 19 - Starling Avenue Baptist Church - 932 Starling Ave.

March 26 - Chatham Heights Baptist Church - 1235 Chatham Heights Road

Loaves & Fishes

Ron Probst and Kelly Cain have graciously volunteered to serve as L&F leaders. Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) resumes on **February 25**, with dinner being served from 5:00 to 6:00. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. **Sign up on our website under volunteers or contact the Church office. We still need desserts, apples, and bananas.**

Donate to The Bishop's Dollar Fund The holy season of Lent invites each one of us to reflect on our discipleship in Jesus' name. As we walk the way of the cross through the forty days of Lent, I pray that you might consider a donation to Bishop's Dollar. Your faithful contribution to The Bishop's Dollar Fund supports a variety of needs around the diocese that are not available through our annual budget. These funds can provide assistance to clergy, their families, and other individuals; additional mission support to parishes; honoraria and gifts to institutions connected to our diocesan ministry and mission. Your generosity will help our Bishop Elect meet needs across the Diocese when she starts her ministry with us.

You may send donations to the Diocesan Office made payable to The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with "Bishop's Dollar" in the memo line. Mail to: Attn: Bishop's Dollar Fund, PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009. Or donate online.

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for February - March: Assorted canned greens (turnip, collard, etc.). **For February:** bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items. There are many families in our community that struggle all of the seasons of the year. But, your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. Remember to pick up our assigned items when you visit the grocery store. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. **You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.**

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams

Reader: Ann Gardner

Chalice: John Swezey, Steve Keyser

Acolyte: Pete Scouras

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Chorister/Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Gus Barber, Hank Long

Camera Operator:

Counters: Bob Weatherall, Rives Coleman

Altar Guild: Team #1 - Beth Sibbick, Stuart Webster, LaRue Powers, Jane Thomasson,

Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick

Nursery Attendant: Caroline Davis

2026 Christ Church Vestry

Year 3: Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman; Senior Warden, LaRue Powers,

Bob Weatherall, Junior Warden

Year 2: Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet; Treasurer, Michael Hodges; Secretary, Steve Keyser

Year 1: Kelly Cain, Jay Dickens, Linda O'Dell, Ron Probst