

# LENTEN LITURGY 2026

**Processional Hymn**     see insert for hymn #, verses 1-3

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Celebrant:*        Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*Congregation:*    **His mercy endures forever.**

## THE GREAT LITANY OR PSALM 51

*There are many versions of the Great Litany, roughly always following the same structure but updated for language and sometimes for content. This is an adaptation of two, the version from the Book of Common Prayer and the version found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*

*Celebrant:*        O Lord,

*Congregation:*    **Have mercy.**

*Celebrant:*        O Christ,

*Congregation:*    **Have mercy.**

*Celebrant:*        O Lord,

*Congregation:*    **Have mercy.**

*Worship Leader:*    God the Father, in heaven,

*Congregation:*    **Have mercy.**

*Worship Leader:*    God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

*Congregation:*    **Have mercy.**

*Worship Leader:*    God the Holy Spirit.

*Congregation:*    **Have mercy.**

*Reader:*            Be gracious to us.

*Congregation:*    **Spare us, good Lord.**

*Reader:*            Be gracious to us.

*Congregation:*    **Help us, good Lord.**

*Reader:*            From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and evil death; from war, bloodshed, and violence; from corrupt and unjust government; from sedition and treason; from epidemic, drought, and famine; from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm, and from everlasting death;

*Congregation:*    **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Celebrant:* By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and suffering; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter;

*Congregation:* **Help us, good Lord.**

*Celebrant:* In all time of our tribulation, in all time of our prosperity, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

*Congregation:* **Help us, good Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Though unworthy we implore You

*Congregation:* **To hear us, O Lord.**

*Celebrant:* To rule and govern Your holy whole church, to guide all servants of Your Church in the love of your Word and in holy living, to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense, to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived, to bless the Church's life-giving message that Jesus is Lord, to bring comfort to the sorrowing and hope to those living in fear, to beat down Satan under our feet, to send faithful laborers into Your harvest, and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit,

*Congregation:* **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Worship Leader:* To raise those that fall and to strengthen those that stand, and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed,

*Congregation:* **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Worship Leader:* To give to all peoples and nations justice and peace, to preserve our land from discord and strife, to give our country Your protection in every time of need, to direct and defend our president and all in authority, to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people, to keep in safety the members of our armed forces and to give wisdom to those in command, to behold and help all who are in danger or need or tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth; to watch over children and to guide the young; to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends, to bring reconciliation to families in discord,

to provide for the unemployed and all in need, to be merciful to all who are imprisoned, to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows; and to have mercy on all your people,

*Congregation:* **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Worship Leader:* To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers;

*Congregation:* **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Acolyte:* Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

*Congregation:* **We implore You to hear us.**

*Acolyte:* Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

*Congregation:* **Have mercy.**

*Acolyte:* Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

*Congregation:* **Have mercy.**

*Worship Leader:* Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

*Congregation:* **Grant us Your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* O Christ,

*Congregation:* **Hear us.**

*Worship Leader:* O Lord,

*Congregation:* **Have mercy.**

*Worship Leader:* O Christ,

*Congregation:* **Have mercy.**

*Worship Leader:* O Lord,

*Congregation:* **Have mercy.**

<http://lutheranconfessions.blogspot.com/2016/08/praying-great-litany.html>

**OR**

*Worship Leader:* **In the spirit of Lent, let us ask for forgiveness, praying together:**

**Psalm 51**

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;**

**according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.  
Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.  
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone into Bathsheba

## **ABSOLUTION**

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

## **SALUTATION**

*Celebrant:* The Love of Christ is always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**The Collect of the Day - See Readings insert.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## The First Reading

Reader: A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After each Reading, the Reader says:*

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: The psalm for the day is in your bulletin insert. Please read the bold print.

*Psalm of the day is read by the reader and congregation*

## The Second Reading

Reader: A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After each Reading, the Reader says:*

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn. see insert for hymn #, verses 1-2**

## The Holy Gospel

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

People: **Praise and Glory to God.**

*After the Gospel, silence may be kept.*

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Christ.

People: **Praise to Christ the word**

**Gradual Hymn. see insert for hymn #, verse 3**

## THE SERMON

## THE CREED

Though he was divine,  
He did not cling to equality with God,  
    but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave, He was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
    even death of the cross.

Therefore, God has raised him on high,  
    and given Him the name above every name:  
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
    and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

(Philippians 2:6-11 From Authorized Affirmations of Faith, Church of England)

*Prayers of the people are omitted when the Great Litany is said*

## PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE

*Worship Leader:* The compassion of the Spirit of God within our hearts compels us to reach out in prayer to other people. Let us pray.

*Worship Leader:* From around the world we hear many children crying, O God; crying for food and drink and someone to enfold them in loving arms.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* We see the desolate eyes of refugees, O God; plodding along war devastated roads, or looking from transit camps, and from behind barbed wire, for glimmers of hope.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* We read about the abused sisters and brothers, O God; cringing from family violence, or suffering in paddy-wagons and jails, or assaulted in their own homes by strangers.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* We hear the sobbing of the broken hearted, O God; betrayed by spouse or lover, deserted by parents, watching at the bed of the dying or following a hearse to the cemetery.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* We know about the disasters that afflict others, O God;  
the bodies mangled in road accidents; those devastated by disease or war,  
and the minds that have cracked under pressure.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* We read about your church, O God;  
in some places overcrowding its buildings,  
in others battling to maintain services,  
or in some countries meeting secretly behind locked doors.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* We look on the faces of both friends and enemies, O God.  
Some of our friends are doing it hard, while enemies seem to be getting it  
easy; yet all are souls for whom Christ died.

*Congregation:* **Hear their prayers, dear Lord, and make us instruments of your peace.**

*Worship Leader:* Let us also pray for our own needs and those of others:  
(read memorials, and/or prayer list from bulletin)  
Congregation to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by Silence.

*Worship Leader:* Holy Friend, while we have been praying,  
you have been busy answering our petitions  
with an ineffable wisdom and an indefatigable love.  
Thank you.  
Through Christ Jesus our Saviour.

*Congregation:* **Amen!**

## **THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE**

*Celebrant:* Christ has broken down the dividing wall that made us strangers to one  
another; he has made us one humanity that God might be all in all; he is our  
life, our hope, and our peace.

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* **And also, with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATIONS**

## OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*One of the following or another sentence of Scripture is used.*

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5.16

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth; where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal: but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither rust nor moth consume, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6.19

All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.14

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 1John 3.17

**Offertory Hymn    see insert for hymn #, verses 1-3**

**Doxology #380, verse 3**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please use the Book of Common Prayer in your pew rack from this point through the Post-Communion Prayer. (Page will be announced)

*All are welcome to God's Table*

*Jesus never turned anyone away. We therefore invite all who seek God's presence to receive Communion. Follow the usher's directions to the altar rail, where you may kneel or stand. Wine and grape juice are in separate chalices. In our Diocese, intinction is not allowed, you may only drink from the chalice. If you choose not to drink from the chalice, you may bow before it to recognize Jesus' presence and receive it spiritually. Gluten free host are available upon request. Children are encouraged to receive the Sacrament, or the Priest will offer a Blessing. If you wish to receive the Sacrament at your seat, please inform the Usher.*

## BLESSING

*Worship Leader:* Live without fear: Your creator has made you holy.

*Acolyte:* He has always protected you and loves you as a mother.

*Celebrant:* Go in peace to follow the good road  
and may God's blessing be always with you.

**Recessional Hymn see insert for hymn #, verses 1-3**

## **DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant:* Marked by a cross, cherished and forgiven.

*Congregation:* **We are traveling home.**

*Worship Leader:* Called to be holy, called to be happy.

*Congregation:* **We are traveling home.**

*Acolyte:* Across deserts, over mountains.

*Congregation:* **We are traveling home.**

*Reader:* God in our hearts, God in our lives.

*Congregation:* **We are traveling home.**

(Patmos Abbey, The Order of Saint Columba. Ruth Burgess).

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/01/ash-wednesday-marked-by-cross.html>

*Worship Leader:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God.**