



The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026, 11 am

PRELUDE

Psalm Prelude (*after Psalm 40:1–3*) (2004)

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

THE GREAT LITANY

Minister: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

Choir: *Have mercy upon us.*

Minister: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Choir: *Have mercy upon us.*

Minister: O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Choir: *Have mercy upon us.*

Minister: O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Choir: *Have mercy upon us.*

Minister: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, for ever.

Choir: *Spare us, good Lord.*

Minister: From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

Choir: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Minister: From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

Choir: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Minister: From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Choir: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Minister: By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Choir: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Minister: By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost

Choir: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Minister: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in

the day of judgment,

Choir: Good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of all in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Minister: Son of God,

Choir: We beseech thee to hear us.

Minister: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Choir: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Choir: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Choir: Grant us thy peace.

Minister: O Christ, hear us.

Choir: O Christ, hear us.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN

No. 145, "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

St. Flavian

The congregation stands and sings

THE PEACE AND GREETINGS

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All are invited to join in the singing of Hymn No. 27, stanza 1

OFFERTORY

Your offering supports the work of the Memorial Church, especially our ministries to students and to our neighbors in need through the Grants Committee. Ushers will begin collection from the front of the church. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church. You may also donate online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>

Psalm 32:1–2, 5–12 *Beati quorum*

Tone III.4

Sung by the choir

DOXOLOGY

The congregation stands and sings.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all people here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

ANTHEM

Pilgrims' Hymn (1997)

Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

Even before we call on your name
To ask you, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify you,
You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in you;
Endless your grace, O endless your grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever,
And unto ages and ages,
Amen.

Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 4:1–11

ANTHEM

Still with Thee (2019)

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh,
When the bird waketh, and the shadows flee;
Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness I am with Thee.

When sinks the soul, subdued by toil, to slumber,
Its closing eye look up to Thee in prayer;

Sweet the repose 'neath the wings o'er shading,
But sweeter still, to wake and find Thee there.

Shall it be, when that bright morning breaketh,
When the soul waketh, and life's shadows flee;
O Fairer than the morning, lovelier than daylight,
Shall rise the glorious thought, I am with Thee.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In unison

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

The congregation remains seated

And through these days of pen - i - tence, and
through thy pas - sion - tide, yea, ev - er - more, in
life and death, Je - sus, with us a - bide.

SERMON

The Rev. Stephanie Paulsell

HYMN

No. 299, "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound"

New Britain

The congregation stands and sings

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace (1977)

George Shearing (1919–2011)