

*Liturgy*  
The First Sunday in Lent  
Year C

GATHERING

*I Will Call*

I will call (echo) upon the Lord (echo),  
Who is worthy (echo) to be praised (echo).

So shall I be saved, so shall I be saved from my enemies.

CCLI Song #48047 ©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Victor Rubbo.

Leader: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in  
the shadow of the Almighty – say to the Lord:

**My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!**  
**His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.**

For He will give His angels charge concerning you,  
to guard you in all your ways.

*They will bear you up in their hands,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.*

When you call on Him,  
He will answer.

*He will be with you in trouble;*

*He will rescue you and honor you and you will see His salvation.*

Leader: “Because you have loved Me,” declares the LORD,  
“I will deliver you. I will set you securely on high,  
because you have known My name.”

– from Psalm 91:1-4, 11-16

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe –  
His craft and pow’r are great, and armed with cruèl hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He –  
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And tho’ this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him –  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –  
The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.

Words and hymn tune: Martin Luther, 1529. Transl. from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge, 1853.  
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*LECTIONARY for the first Sunday in  
Lent, Year C:*

*Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

*Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16*

*Romans 10:8b-13*

*Luke 4:1-13*

*Traditionally, Lent has been a time of focus and reflection on the atoning and reconciling work of Christ. For centuries, Christians have observed this six-week period preceding the commemoration of the Savior’s death on the cross as a special season of fasting, repentance, and prayer. For many, Lent has taken on the special characteristic and practice of spiritual discipline—a time of putting something off (a habit perhaps, an attitude, or an indulgence) in order to make time and room in our lives for those activities and attitudes that draw us closer to God and allow us to serve others. In this season, in some ways more consciously than in others, we seek to become ever more like Christ—in His devotion to the Father’s will, in His acts of love and service, and also in His sufferings—that we may be increasingly formed into His image and filled with His heart and mind.*

*In Year C, the Revised Common Lectionary weaves through the Lenten season the themes of holy and faithful living, alongside the faithful, merciful, and loving answer of God whenever we cry out to Him. What does that look like in our lives? How do we see this in the life of Christ? What are the blessings and responsibilities of living and walking in faithfulness in the ways of God? How does He work in our lives to make us more like Christ? And how does He show us His faithfulness at all times, within a mortal, earthly perspective and also with an eternal point of view?*

*In each of the three years of the lectionary cycle, the first Sunday of Lent includes the account of the temptations of Christ. In this liturgy, we follow this year’s themes with a focus on the images in Psalm 91 (which Satan*

## INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

### *Doxology (Of the Father's Love Begotten)*

Christ, to Thee with God the Fa\*ther,  
And, O Holy Ghost\*, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiv\*ing,  
And unwearied prais\*es be:  
Honor, glory, and domin\*ion  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore\*. A\*men.

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5<sup>th</sup> century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker. Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11<sup>th</sup> century.  
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2015.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord,

from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:

What does the righteousness that comes from faith say?

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” –  
that is, the word of faith that we proclaim:

*Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord  
and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,  
you will be saved.*

**For with the heart one believes and is justified,  
and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

For the Scripture says,

“Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;  
the same Lord is Lord of all,  
bestowing His riches on all who call on Him.*

**For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved.”**

– Romans 10:8-13

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,  
whose name is Holy,

“I dwell in the high and holy place,  
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,  
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15

*“Those who love Me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know My name.  
“When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them My salvation.”*

– Psalm 91:14-16

*quoted to Jesus during the temptations) and on the word(s) of faith that that form our testimony and inform our walk.*

*Music for Ellen's setting of the Gathering hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet. (It is available scored for organ or keyboard on request.)*

*Here's the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/mighty-fortress-our-god>

*We use the doxology verse of the ancient hymn, Of the Father's Love Begotten, to close a time of corporate prayer and praise. Music for it is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and as a sung response or doxology with melody line, chord chart and scored keyboard or organ part.*

*For the ease of congregational singing, asterisks indicate syllables that are sung with more than one melodic note.*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/fathers-love-begotten>

*You may hear a live recording of Of the Father's Love Begotten in the Audio Media Studio:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/audio-media-studio-clips-index>

[Silence]

Eternal, loving, and most merciful God –  
whose Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, was tempted in every way,  
yet was without sin:

**We confess before You our own sinfulness.**

**We have hungered after that which does not satisfy.**

**We have compromised with evil.**

**We have doubted Your power to protect us.**

[Silence]

**Forgive our lack of faith;**

**have mercy on our weakness.**

**Restore in us such trust and love  
that we may walk in Your ways  
and delight in doing Your will,  
to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

*The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Kyrie eleison,

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison,

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, and be encouraged by this assurance of the faithful promise  
of God's love and deliverance:

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

My God, my strength, in whom I take refuge;

My shield and the horn of my salvation,

my stronghold.

*I call upon the LORD,*

*who is worthy to be praised;*

*And I am saved from my enemies.*

**In my distress I called upon the LORD;**

**to my God I cried for help.**

**From His temple He heard my voice,**

**and my cry to Him reached His ears.**

**He brought me out into a broad place;**

**He rescued me, because He delighted in me.**

– Psalm 18:2-3, 6, 19

*The prayer of confession is adapted  
from Reformed Worship, a quarterly  
journal of resources for planning and  
leading worship. CRC Publications,  
#34, December 1994.*

URL: <http://>

[www.reformedworship.org/article/](http://www.reformedworship.org/article/)

[december-1994/genuine-](http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1994/genuine-)

[sorrowwholehearted-joy-why-when-](http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1994/genuine-sorrowwholehearted-joy-why-when-)

[and-how-confession](http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1994/genuine-sorrowwholehearted-joy-why-when-and-how-confession)

## TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

### *When It's All Been Said and Done*

When it's all been said and done,  
There is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for You?

When it's all been said and done,  
All my treasures will mean nothing;  
Only what I've done for love's reward  
Will stand the test of time.

Lord, Your mercy is so great,  
That you look beyond our weakness;  
And find purest gold in miry clay,  
Making sinners into saints.

I will always sing Your praise,  
Here on earth and ever after;  
For You've shown me Heaven's my true home,  
When it's all been said and done,  
You're my life when life is gone.

When it's all been said and done,  
There is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for You?  
Lord, I'll live my life for You.

CCLI Song #2788353 ©1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Jim Cowan.

## THE WORD

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

## THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**

*Another suggestion for a song at Offering is Tommy Walker's Speak the Word (CCLI Song #7057124 ©2016 McKinney Music, Inc. Tommy Walker.*

*Available at*

*www.tommywalkerministries.org/sotwfreecharts/speak-the-word).*

*It contains these wonderful exhortations and strong resonances with the Luke 4 passage in today's lectionary: Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word, . . . Let it calm my soul, shape and make me whole. . . . Let its power rise to dispel all lies. . . . Let it light my path, as each promise stands.*

*The Lord's Prayer* (spoken)

**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 debts  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen**

*O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer*

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul,  
My God, like You there is no other.  
True delight is found in You alone.

Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,  
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach;  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,  
My highest good, and my unending need.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,  
Strong defender of my weary heart,  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver,  
And my shield against his hateful darts;

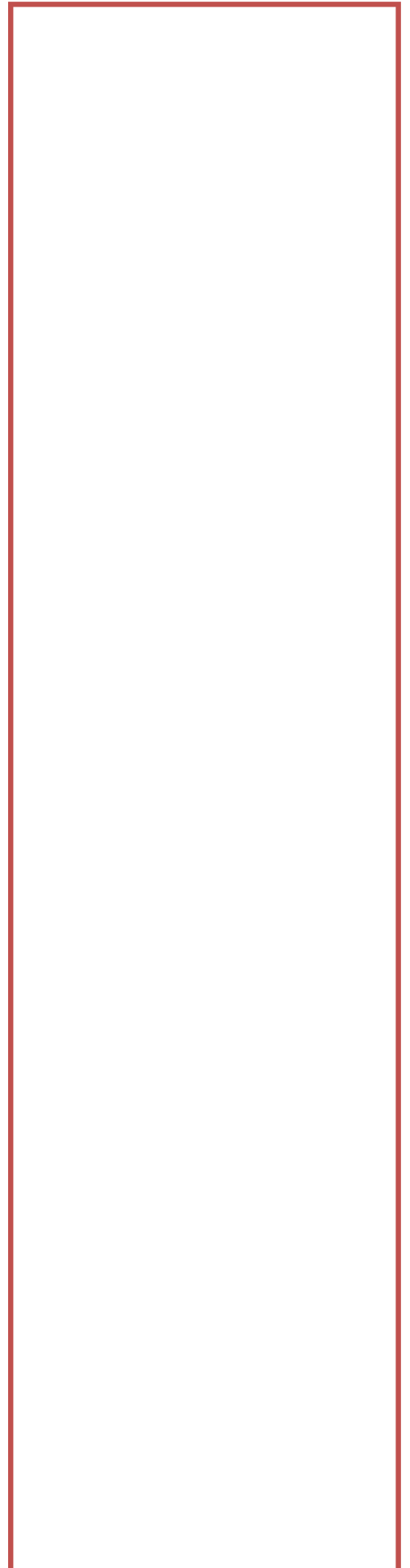
My song when enemies surround me,  
My hope when tides of sorrow rise,  
My joy when trials are abounding,  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,  
Gracious Savior of my ruined life,  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders,  
In my place, You suffered, bled, and died.

You rose, the grave and death are conquered.  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.

CCLI Song #7096627 ©2017 Sovereign Grace Worship. Nathan Still.



SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Benediction*

May the Lord bless us and keep us.  
May the Lord smile on us, shine His light upon us.  
May the Lord lift us, turn His face towards us,  
Give us His peace, give us His peace.

Blessed we came to this place today,  
And blessed now, we will go.  
In the name of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.

Go now in peace; go now in peace.

CCLI Song #7000703 ©2013 Atlas Mountain Songs | Said and Done Music | sixsteps Music | Thankyou Music  
| worshiptogether.com songs. Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world,  
do so remembering that it is God, our Refuge and our Fortress,  
who gives perseverance and encouragement. **Amen.**

Now may the Lord direct your hearts  
into God's love and Christ's perseverance,  
as you walk in Christ's own footsteps,  
taking on His likeness,  
in this journey of Lent.

**We remember, and we go with grateful hearts  
into the world to love and serve the Lord.  
Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“There must not be any space between our heart and lips, . . . The Word must be near us and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's words: ‘That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved.’ . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy: believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus Christ died so that we could live in Him..”

– Hilary of Poitiers

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17—4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

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*You will notice that our usual closing of the benediction, “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!” is missing. That is because it's customary during Lent to refrain from saying “Alleluia!” In a sense, we fast from this exuberant expression of praise, which makes it all the more meaningful and glorious when we declare on Resurrection Sunday, “Christ is risen, Alleluia!”*