

PRAYERS for February 26, 2023 – First Sunday in Lent

Worship Assistant: On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray that You might bring us closer to the cross so that we know how much You loved us and gave Yourself for us.

Worship Assistant: Father in heaven, we are so blessed because You gave us Your Word. During these forty days of Lent, we thank You for giving us knowledge of You through the Bible and through the faithful preaching of Your Word. Bring us to the cross so that we may keep Lent in a way that is pleasing to You. Teach us to love You more wholly, praise You more fully, and thank You more often. We thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to put faith and understanding in our hearts. We worship You; we praise You; and we serve only You.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Lord Jesus, You went all the way to the cross to redeem Your lost and sinful children. Graciously look upon us during this Lenten season and let us find cleansing and healing in Your precious blood. You are our strength and our protector. We put our trust in You that You will teach us Your ways and Your paths. You comfort us when we are troubled, lift us up when we are discouraged, and show us Your steadfast love when we need hope. Help us be generous, show compassion, and have understanding for all who cross our paths. Let our love for You shine through each of us today and every day.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Lord Jesus, help us to think about Your passion each day during this time of Lent. Help us to follow You from the Garden to Calvary; to pray that we may deny temptation; and to find quiet places and times where we can meet You often so that we may live lives of prayer. Remind us always to stop and to listen when we pray. Grant pastors grace to proclaim Your glorious message; grant teachers and students faith to grow in the knowledge of Christ; and grant Your followers the strength and will to share Your Word and peace with others.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Healing Father, You are able to create something out of nothing. Our hearts are sometimes reduced to nothingness by doubts, fears, grief, and despair. Help us to trust in Your goodness, Your grace, Your time, and Your forgiveness. Thank You for the gift of Your Spirit and the privilege of coming to You in prayer. We come to You today on behalf of all who are anxious about illness, sorrow, burdens, and care. Help us all to trust You even when we can't see what You are doing. Be with us, the friends and families on our prayer list, and the people whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Worship Assistant: Gracious Father, we thank You for people who choose lives of service: especially members of our military, police officers, fire fighters, first responders, medical professionals, pastors, and teachers. Be with them and their families as they serve our country and its people. We pray for missionaries who take Your Word to the unbelieving. Lord, even if we never travel to far-off places, make us missionaries for You. Help us share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our families, with our neighbors, and with the world. Help us use this Lenten season to honor Your sacrifice by following Your example and using our talents to serve others. We continue to pray for our country, our leaders, and our world.

Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen