

## **First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 2026**

The Collect and Psalm will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer  
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from The Revised Standard Version Bible

**The Collect:** Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Old Testament:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 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."

3 Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?"  
2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 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, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

## Psalm: Psalm 32

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.
- <sup>6</sup> I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- <sup>7</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- <sup>8</sup> You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>9</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*Gen  
I will guide you with my eye.
- <sup>10</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."
- <sup>11</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**Epistle: Romans 5:12-19**

12 Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned— 13 sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17 If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people****Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written,

'Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will give his angels charge of you,'

and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” 8 Again,  
the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world  
and the glory of them; 9 and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and  
worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! for it is written,

‘You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**On February 25 we celebrate the life of John Roberts *Priest*. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

John Roberts was a priest and mission worker among the Shoshone and Arapahoe in Wyoming, where he worked tirelessly from his arrival in 1883 until his death in 1949.

Born March 31, 1853, and educated in Wales, Roberts served briefly in the Bahamas, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1878, and as chaplain of St. Matthew Cathedral worked among native Bahamians, especially in the leper colonies. Still, as most of his charges were Christian, his ministry there was largely pastoral; he yearned for a bigger challenge, the evangelical task of mission to the unbaptized. Shortly thereafter, on a visit to New York City, he contacted John Spalding, the missionary bishop of Wyoming and Colorado, asking for work among American Indians. Bishop Spalding sent Roberts to serve in Colorado initially, but, by 1883, he had made his way to Wyoming, where he began work among the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes in the area that is now the Wind River Reservation. Roberts learned the languages of both tribes and made extensive notes on vocabulary that have been invaluable to later generations of scholars.

Roberts shared his work with Laura Brown, a wealthy woman he had met while serving in the Bahamas, where she served as cathedral organist. They married on the day of her arrival in Wyoming, Christmas Day 1884. Together they had six children, five of whom survived the harsh conditions, all of whom learned the tribal languages as well as English.

In 1887, after Roberts had established trusting relationships with the people, the Shoshone chief granted him land on which to build a mission school for girls to complement the nearby government school for boys. In addition to the mission school, Roberts was responsible for starting more than six congregations in Wyoming.

Roberts' zeal for Christian conversions was tempered by a deep respect for indigenous context. He believed it important to preserve the language, customs, and the ancient ways of the native peoples while proclaiming the gospel among them, inviting them to faith, establishing congregations, and serving their needs in the name of Jesus. He died on January 22, 1949.

**Let us pray:** Almighty God, who raised up your servant John Roberts to be a witness among the Shoshone and Arapahoe peoples: May we, inspired by his example and prayers, invite all people to the riches of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**