



SERVICE *of* WORSHIP

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, February 22, 2026

The First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Park Street Church! We're glad you're worshiping with us today. If you're new, please take a look at the "NEW" section on the back cover for some ways to connect with us.

*This bulletin contains instructions (usually next to the pилcrow symbol ¶) and explanations meant to help us fully participate in our worship of God. The People read **bold text** with a loud voice. Scripture lessons are from the English Standard Version.*

Lent is the period of forty days (Sundays are excluded) leading up to Easter. Historically, this was a period of preparation for those planning to be baptized at Easter. It later became a time of penitence and self-examination for all Christians. The word Lent means "springtime" and much like the new life that comes after a cold winter, Lent is rooted in repentance and conversion, putting off the old self and putting on the new. This is not simply a one-time event or something exclusive to the Lenten season (though it is highlighted in Lent). Rather, it is a continuous action as the Christian way of discipleship entails a constant turning away from sin and a reorientation to God. All of this is aimed at the renewal of our life in Christ.

The forty days of Lent symbolize the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. By observing Lent, we follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, pray, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and to the cross of Good Friday. Throughout the history of the church, many Christians have used the forty days of Lent to restore vibrancy, life, passion, and vision in their walks with God, primarily through a renewed focus on various spiritual disciplines, including prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

THE PRELUDE

¶ *Music is played to prepare us in body and mind to enter the presence of God.*

INTROIT

(II AM)

Lighten Our Darkness

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this life;
for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Words: Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century) | Music: 2007, Alexander L'Estrange (b. 1974)

¶ *Immediately at the conclusion of the Introit, the People stand.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 119

Leader I will praise you, LORD, with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.

People **May my lips overflow with praise,
for you teach me your decrees.**

Leader Many are the foes who persecute me,
but I have not turned from your statutes.

People **I wait for your salvation, LORD,
and I follow your commands.**

HYMN

Nº 508 Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

INVOCATION

DECALOGUE

Leader God spoke these words and said:
I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself any idol.
You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
and give us grace to love you
with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

Leader Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder,
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
and give us grace to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

¶ *At the Minister's invitation, the People kneel or sit and pray*

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

¶ *The Minister declares God's forgiveness to the People and reminds them of the comforting words of Holy Scripture, after which the People stand.*

THE PEACE

Leader The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with your spirit.

¶ *Greet one another in the peace of Christ. Following the Peace, the People sit.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The Presentation of New Members

ANTHEM

(8:30 AM)

¶ *The People stand and may sing the bold text.*

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on thee, when sorrows rise,
On thee, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies.
To thee I tell each rising grief, for thou alone canst heal;
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief for every pain I feel.

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail, I fear to call thee mine;
The springs of comfort seem to fail and all my hopes decline.
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee? Thou art my only trust,
And still my soul would cleave to thee though prostrate in the dust.

Hast thou not bid me seek thy face. and shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sovereign grace be deaf when I complain?
No— still the ear of sovereign grace attends the mourner's prayer.
Oh, may I ever find access, to breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat,
With humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet.
Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat,
With humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet.

Words: Anne Steele (1717–1778) | Music: 1998, Kevin Twit (b. 1964)
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¶ *The People sit.*

(II AM)

Lead Me, Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Words: Psalm 5:8, 4:8 | Music: S.S. Wesley (1810–1876)

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 15:7–11

pew Bible p. 159

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

¶ *A Minister prays for the Children. The People stand; Children are dismissed to Children's Church during the hymn.*

N^o 644 May the Mind of Christ My Savior

ST. LEONARDS

¶ *The People sit.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 26:1–13

pew Bible p. 831

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GLORIA PATRI

¶ *The People stand. (Hymn N^o 734)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

¶ *Following the prayer, the People sit.*

SERMON

A Beautiful Thing

Mark Booker

HYMN

¶ *The People stand.*

N^o 170 Fairest Lord Jesus

ST. ELIZABETH

THE PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

¶ *The People kneel or sit. A Minister leads the People in prayer for the world, the church, the sick, and the suffering, concluding with*

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,
for ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

¶ *The People sit. The offering plates are passed while music is offered to the Lord.*

Watchful's Song, *from The Pilgrim's Progress* R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

*Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit,
into thy hands, O Lord.*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord,
who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved.

He that keepeth thee shall not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth thee
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is my keeper, he shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul
from this time forth for evermore.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

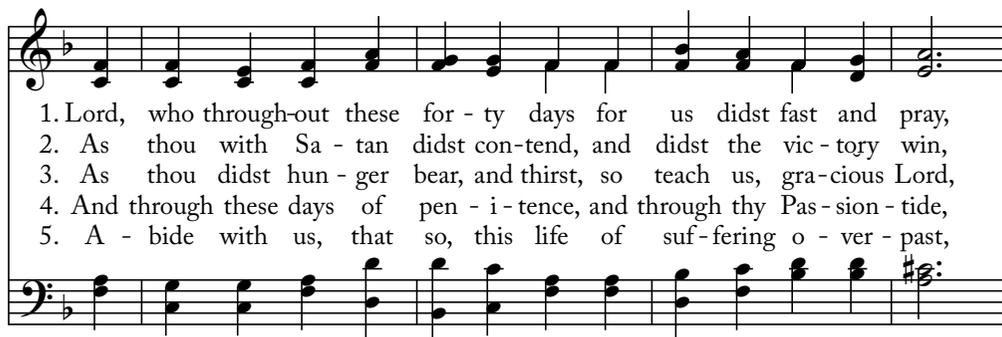
¶ The People stand and sing as the offerings are brought forward by the ushers. A Minister then presents them to the Lord in prayer.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

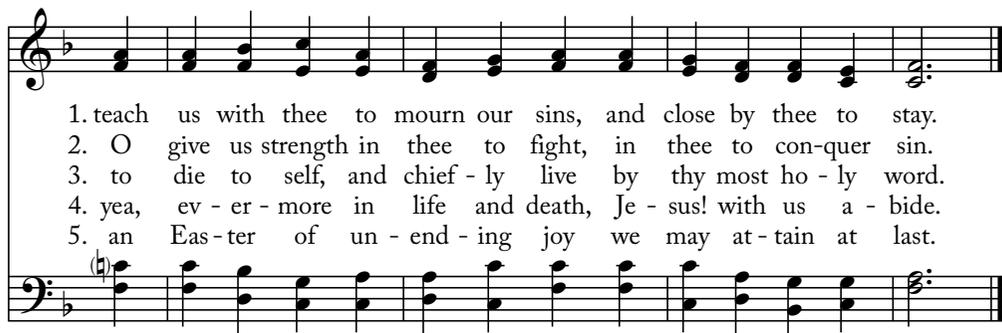
HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
3. As thou didst hun - ger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
5. A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1. teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2. O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
3. to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4. yea, ev - er - more in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
5. an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898)

Music: St. Flavian, melody 1562; arr. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

☞ *The People may sit or leave quietly during the postlude. Please be respectful of those listening to the music in the sanctuary or via the livestream.*

Allegro moderato e serio

F. Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

from Sonata in F minor; with the chorale “What My God Wills Is Always Done”

SERVICE LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

ASSISTING MINISTER Randall Wetzig, *Assitant Minister*

ELDERS 8:30 Andrew Ziegler

 11:00 John Yee

LAY READERS 8:30 Alex Ichimura

 11:00 Christine Vasko

MUSICIANS The Sanctuary Choir; Daniel Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*

 Jessica Kelley, *soprano*

 Ashley Schumacher, *voice*

 Sam Bigus, upright *bass*

Staff directory: parkstreet.org/about-us/staff

NEW MEMBERS

Each of these candidates has been elected to membership at a meeting of the Membership Committee, and is today presented to the Congregation in accordance with our Bylaws.

Joining at 8:30 am

Alexander Chang
Anna Lee Chang

Brent S. Lacey

Joining at 11 am

Amy Baral
Daniel Bu
Jacob Herman
AJ van Kleef
Laurens van Kleef
Aidan Montmeny
Chloe Neptune

Kendrick Neptune
Christopher Polaski
Lydia Polaski
Angelina Q. Rao
Sara G. Solomon
Edward Yuanhe Yao
Michelle Zhangxu

COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

"...go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret..." Matthew 6:6

Let us pray together...

- Thanking the Lord for the lives of Winston Love and Eleanor Delorme, both members of Park Street Church, who died on February 14 and 17, respectively.
- For the GriefShare ministry, that it would be a support for those facing a loss and that God would be made known through it.
- That we would be united with our sister churches here in Boston.
- For our annual meeting this Wednesday, that we would be wise in how to walk forward together as disciples of Jesus.
- For the many places around the world where there is war and violence, that God would bring peace.

Submit prayer requests to: parkstreet.org/requestprayer (or call 617-523-3383)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

More details at parkstreet.org/everything

* Indicates childcare available. Preregistration may be required.

Today

Sunday Worship* | 8:30 am & 11 am | *Sanctuary*
Children's Church & Nursery | 8:30 am & 11 am | *Various Rooms*
Children & Youth Sunday School Classes | 9:45 am | *Various Rooms*
Lenten Discipleship Initiative (Adult Sunday School) | 9:45 am | *see below*
Park Street International Fellowship | 12:30 pm | *Fellowship Hall*
GriefShare | 1 pm | *5th Floor Board Room*
Prayer & Discernment for Sunday Evenings | 5 pm | *Welcome Center*

This Week

Morning Prayer | Weekdays, 8:30 am | *parkstreet.org/morningprayer*
ESL Classes & Activities* | Tue, Wed, & Thu | *Various Rooms*
Midday Lenten Services | Tue, Wed, Thu, 12:15 pm | *Sanctuary*
Café Young Adults | Tue, 7 pm | *Welcome Center*
The Men's Bible Study | Wed, 7:30 am | *Welcome Center*
Life Together Womens Bible Study | Wed, 10 am | *Terrace Room*
Woman's Benevolent Society | Wed, 10 am | *Granary Room*
Annual Meeting | Wed, 5:30 pm dinner, 7 pm meeting | *Sanctuary*
Home Ministry Outreach Meals | Thu, 5:45 pm & Sat, 8:30 am | *Fellowship Hall*
Friendship Bible Study | Thu, 7 pm | *Sky Room*
Youth Group | Fri, 7 pm | *Youth Room*
Haitian ESL Classes | Sat, 9:30 am | *Granary Room & Common Room*
Other Small Groups and Bible Studies | Various Times | *parkstreet.org/groups*

General

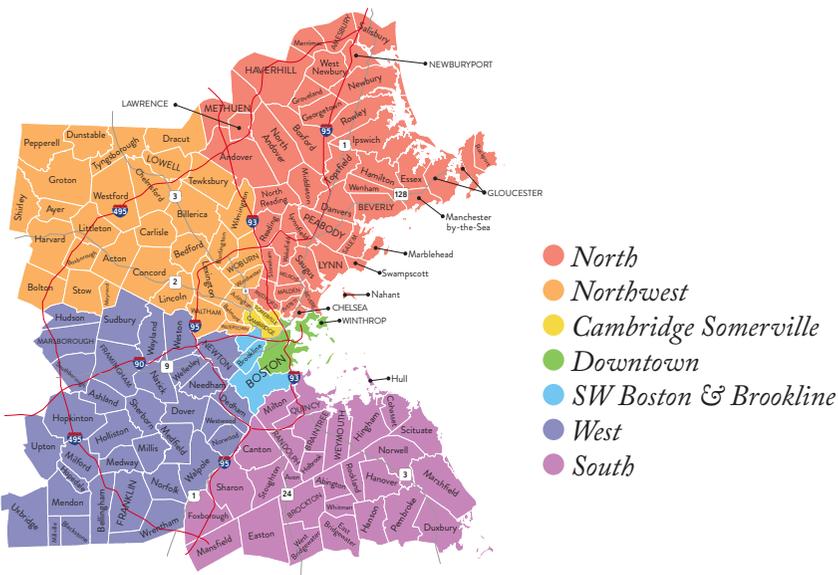
LDI 2026: People of the Passion | Beginning Today, 9:45 am

Small groups will meet over six weeks to explore the Passion narrative through the lens of characters from Matthew 26–27. If you haven't registered in Church Center, you are still invited to join. You can just show up! Find your Region using the map on the next page, and then find where your Region meets with the locations below.

Downtown and North Regions: *Welcome Center*

Cambridge Somerville and Northwest Regions: *Granary Room*

SW Boston & Brookline, South, and West Regions: *Terrace Room*



Prayer & Discernment for Sunday Evenings | Today, 5 pm | *Welcome Center*
 Join us for a second gathering of brainstorming and asking God for guidance regarding Sunday evenings at our church.

College Lunches

College lunches will resume after Easter on Sunday, April 12. During Lent, please join us for our Lenten Discipleship Initiative at 9:45 am each Sunday. See Mary Frances Giles in the Welcome Center after the 11 am service today or email her at mgiles@parkstreet.org for more information.

Midday Lenten Services | Tue, Wed, Thu beginning Feb 24, 12:15–12:45 pm | *Sanctuary*

Pause during your week for a 30-minute service of prayer, song, and reflection on scripture featuring speakers from around the city. Services will be streamed at parkstreet.org/live.

Annual Meeting | Wed, Feb 25, Light dinner at 5:30 pm, Meeting at 7 pm

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this important part of the life of our church. Childcare is available, but please register your children in Church Center by Feb 18.

All-Church Lunch | Sun, Mar 8, 12:30 pm

Served in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to help, email hospitality@parkstreet.org or join the Coffee Hour and Meals team on Church Center.

Save the Date: Men's Beefsteak Easter Feast | Fri, Apr 17 | 7 pm

All men of Park Street Church are invited to a Beefsteak Easter Feast featuring excellent meat and robust hymn singing. Registration opens Mar 1.

NEW?

Welcome to Park Street Church! We're glad you're here, and we invite you to become a part of this community of Jesus' disciples. Wherever you're coming from and whatever questions you are asking, we welcome you to join us as we seek to become more like Jesus.

Here are some specific steps you can take to connect:

- Fill out a **Connect card** in the pews and hand it to an usher or drop it in the offering plate. You can also visit parkstreet.org or scan the **QR code** at the right. We'll be in touch.
- Meet an elder or minister at the **Info Desk** in the Welcome Center (one floor below the sanctuary) and pick up a **Welcome booklet**.
- RSVP to the invitation you receive for the **Newcomers Lunch**, where you can meet other newcomers and church leaders, hear about our community and ask questions. We look forward to knowing you better!

