

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Tempted or Tested?
February 20 & 21, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Today we hear of God testing Abraham and of Satan tempting Jesus. James reminds us that God tempts no one. So, how can we know whether God is testing us or Satan is tempting us? James reminds us that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17). As we go through life, striving to live out our calling as God's people, we will hit obstacles and face tests to our faith and to how we live that faith. God can work through these tests to draw us closer to Him. On the other hand, Satan wants to lure and entice us away from the path God would have us walk.

WELCOME

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness,
but is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish,
but that all should reach repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

✖ PREPARATION ✖

HYMN #418 "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves. Since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven's praise.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

People: **Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

Pastor: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

People: **God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

5:00 BELLS "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

CONFESSON & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God's Word reminds us that when we were slaves of sin, we were free in regard to righteousness.

People: **But now that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**

Pastor: For the wages of sin is death,

People: **but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, who has brought us out of slavery and promises to lead us to the promised land of heaven.

A moment for silent confession.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we know we are blessed when we remain steadfast under trial, yet we fall prey to the devil's schemes and give in to temptation. We are lured and enticed by our own evil desires—desires that contradict your good and gracious will.

People: **For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: As Jesus began His ministry, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." As you have repented of your sins, believe these words as if Jesus was standing here speaking them to you: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

❖ WORD ❖

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 22:1–18* (God tested Abraham.)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering

instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 BELLS

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

EPISTLE *James 1:12–18* (The path temptation treads)

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SONG "There is a Name I Love to Hear"

AGPS #236

There is a name I love to hear; I love to sing its worth.
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain: Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free.
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. Refrain

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:9–15* (Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

HYMN OF THE DAY #424 “O Christ, You Walked the Road”

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung’ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation’s hour To fight our ancient foe.

SERMON

“Testing, Trials, and Temptation”

Genesis 22:1-18

CATECHISM *The Sixth Petition and Explanation*

Pastor: And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?

People: **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

OFFERING Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, knowing that He loves to hear the prayers of His children and has promised to answer us according to His good and gracious will.

Heavenly Father, as we enter this Lenten season of repentance and renewed devotion, we pray that you would remember us according to your steadfast love and goodness in Christ. Instruct and lead us by your Spirit in your ways so that we may withstand temptation, repent of our sins and believe the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, you placed the wood of the cross on the back of your only begotten Son, that as the promised offspring of Abraham He might conquer both sin and death. Bless, we pray, His Church and all those called to preach and teach within her with the certainty of His victory. Bless our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer. Give success to all who serve Christ, that many may be delivered from the darkness of sin and live in the light of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, preserve all students and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home. Deliver them all from the assaults of the evil one. As your Son overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, so also give us the victory through Christ and His Word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of the church, you graciously preserve and enlarge the family of believers day by day. We give you thanks and praise that Jackson Emmer will enter the family of Christ through the blessing of Holy Baptism this weekend. Bless his parents and loved ones to teach him the faith, encourage him in life, and exhort him to walk with Christ all his days. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift comes down to us from above, keep us from being enticed by our own desires to misuse your gifts in sin, and help us to use them rightly in service to you and our neighbor. Bless Joseph, our president, Tony, our governor, and all our elected and appointed leaders, that we may be governed wisely and justly for the good of this present generation and all those to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Most High God, our refuge in every trouble, you have promised to hear when we call to you. We pray that you would command your angels to guard our brothers and sisters, granting them deliverance and restoration in times of sickness and difficulty. We pray especially for Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Arlene, Junie, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Cindy, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley, Sarah, and all those who suffer in our midst. Keep them from every evil that can befall the body, mind and soul. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, the time is fulfilled and your kingdom is at hand as your beloved Son comes to us here at the altar. By your Spirit, grant that we may receive His precious supper in repentance and faith, believing the Gospel proclaimed to us in His body given and His blood shed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us whom you brought forth by the Word of truth who now live and reign in your presence with your Son. We pray that in due time you would bring us to full maturity and goal of our faith, that we, too, may be gathered with them on the glorious harvest of the Last Day. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

✖ SACRAMENT ✎

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION Wait for the ushers to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #570 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

HYMN #702 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

HYMN #721 "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way; For if You lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, Be my aid when Satan and sin
oppress. I am putting all my trust in Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

I am lost if You take Your hand from me, I am blind without Thy light to see. Lord,
always let me Thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, we thank you for pouring out your body and
blood and serving it to us in this Meal in bread and wine. In your mercy,
strengthen and lead us as we face temptations and testing in this life on
our way to the life to come, for you live and reign with the Father and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has
stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised
to those who love Him. The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the
☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

HYMN #656

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o'er taken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not over pow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Noah Kegley

Russell Hurst, Pastor Doug Bender

Michelle Prince

**Mid-Week
Lenten Worship
“Return to the Lord”
Wednesday at
10:00am & 6:00pm**