

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Adam and Christ
February 21, 2026
5:00pm

AS WE GATHER

Adam and Jesus are a study in contrasts. Where man in the Garden of Eden was weak before the devil's wiles, Jesus returns the words of Satan with the Word of God. In so doing, He does not simply repeat words but expresses His trust and confidence in the Father. The Spirit led Jesus to the place of temptation knowing that Jesus knew what Adam forgot. Thanks be to God the error of Adam is not like the gift of God in Christ. What Adam lost, Christ won and not for Himself but for all who believe in Him. The family of sinners born with Adam's sin is contrasted with the sons and daughters of righteousness born of Christ and His atoning work. Everyone suffers from Adam's sin but only those who believe know the saving fruits of Christ's holy obedience.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

VERSE

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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'ertaken.
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 overpower 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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to you.

People: **I did not cover up my iniquity.**

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

People: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, when Adam as parent of us all chose sin and its death, you did not condemn the people you had made but sent forth the promise of a new Adam, Jesus Christ, your Son, to resist the lies of the evil one and earn a righteousness great enough to be given to all people in His name. Help us to abide in Christ and in His strength before the temptations of the devil; in the holy name of Jesus do we pray.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 3:1–21* (Sin entered into the world through the fall of Adam.) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that 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 surely 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 who was with her, 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 loincloths.⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”¹⁷ And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 5:12–19* (By one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience shall the many be declared righteous.)¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³ for 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 sinning was 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 by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

¹⁷ For 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 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BELLS *"I Need Thee Every Hour"* arr. Larry Sue

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 4:1–11* (Our Lord is tempted by Satan in the wilderness.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, 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 comes from the mouth of God.'"⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning 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 put the Lord your God to the test.'"⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.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, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"¹¹

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

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN #712

"Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

SERMON HYMN #562 "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall" Stanzas 1, 3-6

All mankind fell in Adam's fall; One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends, And over all God's wrath impends.

From hearts depraved, to evil prone, Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;
God's image lost, the darkened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'nly goal.

But Christ, the second Adam, came To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way. Our only hope, our only stay.

As by one man all mankind fell And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place, We all were justified by grace.

We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
This grace our ev'ry way attend Until we reach our journey's end.

SERMON "One Man's Sin and One Man's Righteousness" Romans 5:12-19

(Rise)

OFFERTORY LSB p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be seated)

HYMN DURING OFFERING #422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Silence for a time of personal petition

Pastor: O Lord, in the midst of this life we are beset by many temptations. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us and resisted to the point of death. Bring us through the evils of this fallen world to dwell with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, you take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, preserve all students of the Bible and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As your Son overcame Satan 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: O Lord, you have established earthly authorities to punish evil and praise those who do good. Grant our rulers humble hearts to resist the allure of power and to worship you alone. Guard and protect our first responders and all who live to serve and protect us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Father, though we deserve nothing of your kindness, you have shown yourself to be the strength of the weak, the healer of the sick and the hope of those who mourn. Hear us on behalf of those who are troubled in mind or body, the dying and those who grieve. Bless and be with the Heimsoth family as they remember Jerry whom you called home 17 years ago. Bring healing, health and help to Michael, Barb, Marlene, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah. Sustain them through their afflictions, heal them according to your will and deliver them to everlasting life in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of life, we praise you for the gift of life. We rejoice with John and Elaine as they celebrate 60 years of marriage, we give you thanks for Lois Ruele as she celebrates 98 year of life, and ask your blessing upon Bill and Lonna Becker who were bound together in marriage this past week. Help us always to treasure the people you place in our lives.
Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we rejoice in athletic gifts and abilities that you have bestowed upon us and we ask your blessing to be upon our boys basketball tournament. Bless participants to play to the best of their abilities and give all joy in this tradition. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, you covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of your Son's blood by which we are cleansed and clothed. Give us the garments of repentance and faith, that we may receive your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have given us a refuge from the world in the Body of Christ. Protect us from all evils of body and soul, that we would find rest in this life and eternal rest in your heavenly embrace; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: With thanksgiving for all your goodness, O Lord, we offer you the praise and worship you are due, remembering that you sent forth your own Son in our flesh, that standing in the place of Adam, He might manifest His righteousness before the evil one and clothe us with His holiness, keeping us pure unto the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when we shall laud your goodness and your mercy face to face. With the angels and archangels, with all those who have loved His appearing, and with the saints who dwell in your nearer presence, we join our voices, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 163

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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #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.

HYMN #761 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

HYMN #544

"O Love, How Deep"

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.

For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter over threw.

For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, from your Baptism you were led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil and you did not succumb to his wiles. Grant to all the baptized people of God strength in the hour of temptation that we may not fall victim to the devil's lies as Adam did bringing sin and death upon all. Cover us with the righteousness by which Christ, the new Adam, equips us to endure the trial and receive the crown of everlasting life He won for us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING 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.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lector

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Gary Knight

Deaconess Carole King

Thank and praise God! I am now at home recuperating from all 30 days in the hospital. I thank the people of St. Paul's for all the prayers and thoughts during my hospital stay.

***I especially thank the kindergarten for all their notes. You are precious!
And a big thank you to Pastor Bender for his visits.***

Pastor Michael Schumacher

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