

First Sunday in Lent - February 26, 2023

LOVE GOD ♦ LIVE THE WORD ♦ SERVE OTHERS ♦ SHARE CHRIST



This Sunday's Gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as the Spirit pronounces him "Son of God" and drives him into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. We, too, in our baptism, are pronounced children of God, which means we will face similar trials and temptations as our Lord did. The good news for us is that we will never be alone in our trials; Christ goes before us and remains with us.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ♦ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ♦ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ♦ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ♦ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ♦ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

▼ MUSICAL PRELUDE / PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *(Spoken, adptd. from LBW, p.193)*

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and grow in the fulness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. **Amen**

Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being: forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ HYMN "WE WALK THE VALE OF LENT" *(Sung)*

We walk the vale of Lent to ponder and repent. We do not bathe in blame but simply, clearly name the evils we have done and said, that now we rightly, truly spurn; from which, by grace, we mean to turn.

If recent sins combined, assault our trembling mind or hindsight in surprise now makes us recognize how, breaking sacred promises, we floated with unchecked desires on flowing streams of growing wrong.

We travel, day by day, and sometimes pause to pray till glimpsing what we seek, we enter Holy Week, where idle aims and boasting pride must die, with pouting petty pique in Jesus Christ, the crucified.

And the, as we awake on Easter Sunday morn we'll gloom and doom forsake, of blighting burdens shorn. In Christ arisen and alive, renewed, replenished and reborn, reenergized, we'll daily thrive.

▲ KYRIE (*Sung*)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all... **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken*)

Let us pray. Lord God, you led your Son into the wilderness to engage our ancient foe in battle and by steadfastness in your Word he overcame every temptation of the Evil One.

Help us, in our times of temptation, to put our trust in you and guard our hearts with your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

▼ FIRST READING - Genesis 3:1-21 (*Pew Bible, p. 3*)

▼ SECOND READING - Romans 5:12-19 (*Pew Bible, p. 1120*)

▼ KCJAM CHOIR / CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE (*Sung*)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - Matthew 4:1-11 (*Sung, Pew Bible, p. 961*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY - "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR" Insert (*Sung*)

▲ APOSTLES' CREED (*Spoken*)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

▼ CHOIR ANTHEM - "LORD TO ALL OF ME"

▲ OFFERTORY *(Sung; LBW 502, st. 1)*

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tow'r; Thee will I love, my joy, my crown!
Thee will I love with all my pow'r, In all thy works, and thee, alone;
With true devotion willingly, My life I offer now to thee.**

▲ OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

▲ AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

**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 OF THE SACRAMENT *(The Congregation will sing the Taizes during distribution)*

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Sung)*

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

▲ POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the (+)Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen**

▲ SENDING HYMN - "MAY WE YOUR PRECEPTS, LORD, FULFILL" LBW #353 (*Sung*)

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Fight the good fight of faith. **Taking hold of eternal life to which we've been called.** (1 Tim. 6:12)

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional First Sunday in Lent – February 26, 2023

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry." -Luke 4:1-2a

The season of Lent is a 40-day period of penitence and spiritual discipline during which we struggle against our sin and identify with Jesus as our savior from sin. The 40-day period commemorates Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, ending in His temptation by Satan. During these 40 days, Jesus identified with us and overcame Satan for us. Therefore, in our Lenten struggle against sin, we must remember an important truth: It is Jesus' spiritual warfare that makes our spiritual warfare possible. Let's delve deeper into the significance of Jesus' spiritual trial.

First, Jesus' temptation in the wilderness reminds us of Adam's temptation in the Garden of Eden. However, while Adam failed under ideal circumstances, Jesus prevailed under extremely difficult circumstances (i.e., after a 40-day fast). Second, the 40 days of Jesus' temptation also remind us of the 40 years that Israel wandered in the wilderness. However, while many Israelites grumbled against God and failed their test, Jesus remained faithful to the end. Thus, Jesus' trial and victory shows us that He is both the Second Adam and the true Israel. As the second Adam, Jesus saves humanity both by doing what the first Adam should have done (by living righteously) and also by making up for what the first Adam did wrong (by going to the cross). As the true Israel, Jesus fulfills the covenant that God made with Israel in order to establish a new covenant with and for us.

Here we see that at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, there were already undertones of the cross. This means that Jesus' earthly ministry was bracketed by trial and the cross. In fact, Jesus' temptation in the desert was the trial by which He proved Himself capable of going the distance against Satan. And as a prize for His victory, Jesus won the right to go to the cross for us in order to save us and free us for our own spiritual warfare! Jesus defeated Satan for us so that we could engage the battle.

During Lent, therefore, we do not struggle against sin to earn our salvation. Rather, we struggle because Jesus has already won the victory for us and has thereby freed us to struggle. Jesus' spiritual warfare makes our spiritual warfare possible. And He will catch us when we fall.

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