

*February 20, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.*

*First Sunday in Lent*

*And a voice came  
from heaven,  
“You are my Son,  
the Beloved;  
with you I am  
well pleased.”*

*Mark 1:11, NRSV*



*Trinity Lutheran Church & School*

*Our Mission:  
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 20, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.

## 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.

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    *"Come Just As You Are"*    *Joseph Sabolick*

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

*from Psalm 25*

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

Pastor:    The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,  
**People:    and he makes known to them his covenant.**

Pastor:    Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
**People:    teach me your paths.**

Pastor:    Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
**People:    for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**

## HYMN

### ***"O Christ, You Walked the Road"***

[Words: Herman Stuempfle Jr. © 1997 GIA Publications. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-715126. Music: William Daman / Public Domain]

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.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(A moment for silent confession.)*

Pastor: Dear Heavenly Father,

**People: we bow our heads before you and confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there is no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. We ask your forgiveness for all our sins. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be in all circumstances. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.**

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. You promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, and then you asked him to sacrifice his only son. You provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice.

**People:** Open our eyes to how You provide for us, especially in tough times when everything looks so wrong.

**Pastor:** Empower us to hold tightly to the promises that are “yes” for us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

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

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.

And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.

Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    ***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”***

[Scriven / Converse. Public Domain]

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
Oh, what needless pain we bear –  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
You will find a solace there.

**SERMON:**    ***“What We Learn From Testing”***    *Genesis 22: 1-10*

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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.**

### BENEDICTION *James 6:12*

**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

#### ***"Christ Be My Leader"***

[Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 254312. Tune: Public Domain]

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care;  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.  
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,  
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

[Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.]

### ***Serving Us***

*Vacancy Pastor ... Rev. Ronald Habedank*  
*Organist ... Katherine Herman*  
*Singers ... Ellen Makey, Marie Thompson*

*Reader ... Joan Sullivan*  
*Altar ... Kathy Stephan*  
*Deacon ... Jerry Meissner*



## **Lenten Meditation ~ Wednesday Mornings**

Each meditation will center around these well known hymns.

2/24 "The Lamb"

3/3 "In Christ Alone"

3/10 "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

3/17 "Were You There?"

3/24 "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

On each date you will find these online at [www.trinitywestseneca.com](http://www.trinitywestseneca.com)

## **Palm Sunday Celebration ~ March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday -5:00pm & Sunday - 10:30am w/Holy Communion

## **Maundy Thursday ~ April 1<sup>st</sup>**

7pm w/ Holy Communion

## **Good Friday ~ April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7pm Service of Darkness

## **Easter Celebration ~ April 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am w/Holy Communion

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