

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Down in the Valley of the Shadow of Temptation

February 25 & 26, 2012

AS WE GATHER

The Scriptures are filled with images of Christ long before we get to His incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection. Think of the image of Abraham and his son, Isaac. The father is ready to give up his one and only son - the son of promise. But which father - are we talking about Abraham or the heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus? Today, we begin with one story of temptation that has become the prelude to another story - the story of Jesus. The Gospel lesson tells us how our Lord Jesus was Himself tempted like we are, in every way, and yet is found faithful. We do not face temptation alone but in Christ whose strength is made perfect in our weakness and whose grace is our courage under duress. Today, we pray that God may find us faithful when we are put to the test and that God will rescue us with His forgiveness when we fail.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

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

(Please rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The Lord says: When you call to Me, I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble; I will rescue you.

People: With long life the Lord will satisfy me and show me His salvation.

Pastor: Since we are assembled here to hear the Word of God, to call upon Him in prayer, and to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is good that we reflect upon our unworthiness, confessing before God our sins of thought, word, and deed, and our helplessness to free ourselves from our sinful nature. It is also good that we remember who we are as the baptized children of God, to whom the Lord has shown His mercy, cleansed from all our sin, and declared righteous in Christ our Lord. We come here today to lay claim again to the grace in which we are forgiven, and, for the sake of Christ, to be restored by His mercy to serve Him and walk in His ways. Let us confess our sins.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

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.

SALUTATION and COLLECT

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)

GOUNDWORK GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM COMMISSIONING

+ WORD OF GOD +

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 22:1-18 *(The Lord asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son, and Abraham shows his trust in God.)* 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."

EPISTLE James 1:12-18 *(God indeed tempts no one but we are tempted by our own desires, soiled and tainted with sin.)* 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.

10:30 ANTHEM "Best of All Friends" Jr. High Choir

(Please rise)

GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15 *(Jesus is driven into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan and the time is fulfilled for the Kingdom of God to be at hand.)* 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!"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN # 423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

SERMON "His Victory Is Ours" Mark 1:9-15

10:30 ADULT CONFIRMATION

(Please rise)

5:00 & 8:00 NICENE CREED *(found in the back of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book 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 book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear God, Lord of the Church, we pray that you bless and guide pastor Harold Bender as he considers the call we have extended to him to serve as our senior pastor. Bless his family as they pray about this and as pastor Bender seeks your will, and our brothers and sisters at St. John Lutheran, whom pastor Bender now serves. This we pray according to your will, and in the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray that when we fall we may repent of our sinful ways, call upon the Lord in the name of Jesus to forgive us and restore us, and reach out to others to restore the wandering and reclaim those lost to error; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the sick may be healed, the suffering relieved, the dying find peace, and the grieving comfort especially Harold, Elfrieda, Bea, Paula, Lois, Ruth, Dolores, Joe, Samuel that God may show them the healing and sustaining power of His grace in their time of need; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the nation may be led by people of integrity and honesty, that peace and justice may prevail here and throughout the world, and that the Lord may bless those who protect us here and everywhere. Grant confidence and courage to our Guatemala Mission Team as they prepare to travel and spread your love to others; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That with joy we may acknowledge God as the Giver of all that we call our own and that we may respond with gratitude, returning to Him the tithes and offerings we bring, for His glory and the work of His kingdom. We join in celebration with Kristy as she confirms her faith in you; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we

pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ;

People: Lord, have mercy and grant us your grace always. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION 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 # 609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" Stanzas 1-5

HYMN # 606 "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

HYMN # 655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

COMMON DISMISSAL

NUNC DIMITIS

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Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

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.

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Great God of mercy, when we could not stand up in the face of temptation, you promised us your own Son as our Savior and Redeemer. We glimpsed a vision of your love in Abraham who resisted temptation

and stood ready to offer to you his one and only son, Isaac. Now you have shown us the fullness of your glory in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Though He resisted every temptation, He did not shy away from suffering for us the death that has given us life. Restore us when we fall and make us strong in Christ, our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" *(Tune: #578 "Thy Strong Word")*

Jesus, tempted in the desert, Lonely, hungry, filled with dread:

"Use Your pow'r," the tempter tells Him; "Turn these barren rocks to bread!"

"Not alone by bread," He answers, "Can the human heart be filled.

Only by the Word that calls us Is our deepest hunger stilled!"

Jesus, tempted at the temple, High above its ancient wall:

"Throw Yourself from lofty turret; Angels wait to break Your fall!"

Jesus shuns such empty marvels, Feats that fickle crowds request:

"God, whose grace protects, preserves us, We must never vainly test."

Jesus, tempted on the mountain By the lure of vast domain:

"Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"

Jesus sees the dazzling vision, Turns His eyes another way:

"God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!"

When we face temptation's power, Lonely, struggling, filled with dread,

Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, Come and be our living bread.

By Your grace, protect, preserve us Lest we fall, Your trust betray.

Yours, above all other voices, Be the Word we hear, obey.

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Preacher

Pastor Bryan O'Connor

Liturgist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Jim Laux, Pam Akey, John Ficken

Acolytes

Megan Lewan, Dyllan Pekrul, Dana Gall

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

Jr. High Choir Director

Shannon Wiegert