

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Tempted

February 21 & 22, 2015

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

During the season of Lent we are called to recognize and resist temptation in our lives. Temptation comes in many forms—things, people, ideas, behaviors, and more. An important distinction needs to be made between testing and tempting. God tested Abraham in today's Old Testament Reading, and He did not let Abraham sacrifice Isaac. Instead, He provided a substitute: a ram. God may test us at times, but He never tempts us toward evil. James says, "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." Mark reminds us that Jesus was tempted in every way as we are, and yet was without sin. His life is the sacrifice foreshadowed by the ram provided in place of Isaac. By His death for us, Jesus empowers us to resist temptation in all of its forms.

5:00 PRELUDE

"Exuberant Joy" arr. Arnold B. Sherman

Bell Choir

WELCOME

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you:
Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,
but rather think of yourself with sober judgment,

in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3, NIV)

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #656

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Rise for the last stanza

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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Psalm 25*

Pastor: Our trust is in the LORD.

People: Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love.

Pastor: According to your steadfast love remember us.

People: Good and upright is the LORD.

Pastor: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Psalm 51:4; Psalm 25; James 1:18*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Pastor: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Pastor: We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Pastor: We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment.

People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Pastor: For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD remembers His mercy and steadfast love. He remembers not our sins and transgressions. Because of Christ's all-atoning sacrifice for us, God forgives all our sins. He brings us forth by this word of truth to be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. 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 & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our

wretchedness we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; 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* (Abraham prepares to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.) 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, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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 cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.") Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God 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 one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away 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. 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.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM "Hymn of Promise" Natalie Sleeth, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

8:00 ANTHEM "Jesus, Son of Life My Splendor" George Frederic Handel. Accomp. By Paul G. Bunjes

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:9–15* (Jesus is tempted by Satan.)

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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 desert, and he was in the desert 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 is near. Repent and believe the good news!

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

"Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

(Sung to Tune: LSB #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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SERMON

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the inside back cover in the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM DURING OFFERING *"Ascension"* Kevin McChesney

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

Almighty God, we give you thanks that, immediately after His Baptism, your Son, Jesus, continued His work of salvation by His temptation in the wilderness.

People: We give great thanks that in Him, we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet remained without sin to be the sacrifice for us.

Pastor: Guard us from the temptation of believing that we are left to our own strength to resist the devil, the world and our sinful nature. Rather, rejoicing that you tempt no one, guard and keep us so that these enemies may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair and other great shame and vice.

People: Preserve us, O Lord, in repentance and faith, so that though we be assailed by temptations, in Christ we might finally overcome them and win the victory.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we praise you for your faithfulness to your beloved Son as you sent angels to minister to Him in the wilderness. Rejoicing that you have made us beloved children in Christ by water and the Word, we pray that you would send every blessing upon us to support this body and life, according to your will.

People: Where we are tempted to anxiety because we face difficulties and doubt your promises, forgive us our doubts and strengthen us in faith so that we might always look to you for every good gift.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks that in your incarnation the time was fulfilled for the kingdom of God to be at hand and that you confirmed this proclamation by healing many of their diseases and afflictions. We commend to you all those in need of healing and mercy especially Hib, Helen, Sharon, Carleen, Charles, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Virginia, Dolores, Ginger, Gretchen, Mark, Richard, Lois and Sarah.

People: Deliver them, O Lord, according to your will; preserve them from the temptations of bitterness and despair and strengthen their faith and joy in you all the more.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for all your blessings that you bestow upon us, the ministry of our church and school and the lives touched by your grace. Bless Dr. Cody and he prayerfully considers the call to serve as our next principal. Bless the hearts of the Heimsoth family as they remember Jerry and rejoice in St. Paul's family.

People: We give thanks with the Rauter family for all the volunteers who make our tournaments a success. Open our eyes to see all of life's goodness as coming from your hand and to live thankful lives of service and sacrifice.

Pastor: Blessed Lord Jesus, we give thanks to you that the kingdom of God remains near to us in your Word and Sacraments. Bless the Word that is proclaimed in your Church this day, faithfully sending your Holy Spirit to work repentance and faith. Bless all who partake of the Holy Communion this day.

People: Preserve us from doubts regarding your promises or temptations to misuse this supper. Give us repentant hearts, that receive your body and blood for forgiveness of sins and rejoice in our common confession of the faith with others who gather at your altar.

Pastor: Holy God, we praise your name for your faithfulness and mercy to Abraham, providing a lamb in the place of his son. We give thanks for the faith you gave to Abraham, that he was willing to follow you even at the expense of his own son. Guard us from the temptation of making those gifts we hold most dear into idols that would replace you in our worship.

People: Grant us to live as those set free by the Good News that you have not withheld your only begotten Son, but have offered Him as the Lamb in our place to deliver us from sin, death and hell.

Pastor: With thanks for your mercy to Abraham, to Isaac and to all the saints who have gone before us, we pray that you would sustain our faith in Jesus

Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, so that with all your saints, we might stand before your throne in everlasting joy. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through faith in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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, grant us peace.

(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 #547 "The Lamb" Stanzas 1-4

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?

Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!

The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.

The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill

So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

HYMN #861 “Christ Be My Leader”

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.

HYMN #434 “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 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 #809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton	
Liturgist		Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors		Jane Adams, Laurel Privatt
Acolytes		Abigail Fellenbaum, Zander Maxwell
Children’s Message		Laurel Privatt
Bell Director		Matt Compton
Bell Accompanist		Jacob Erdman
Choir Director		Nancy Hoelke
Organist		Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator		Kim Woller

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