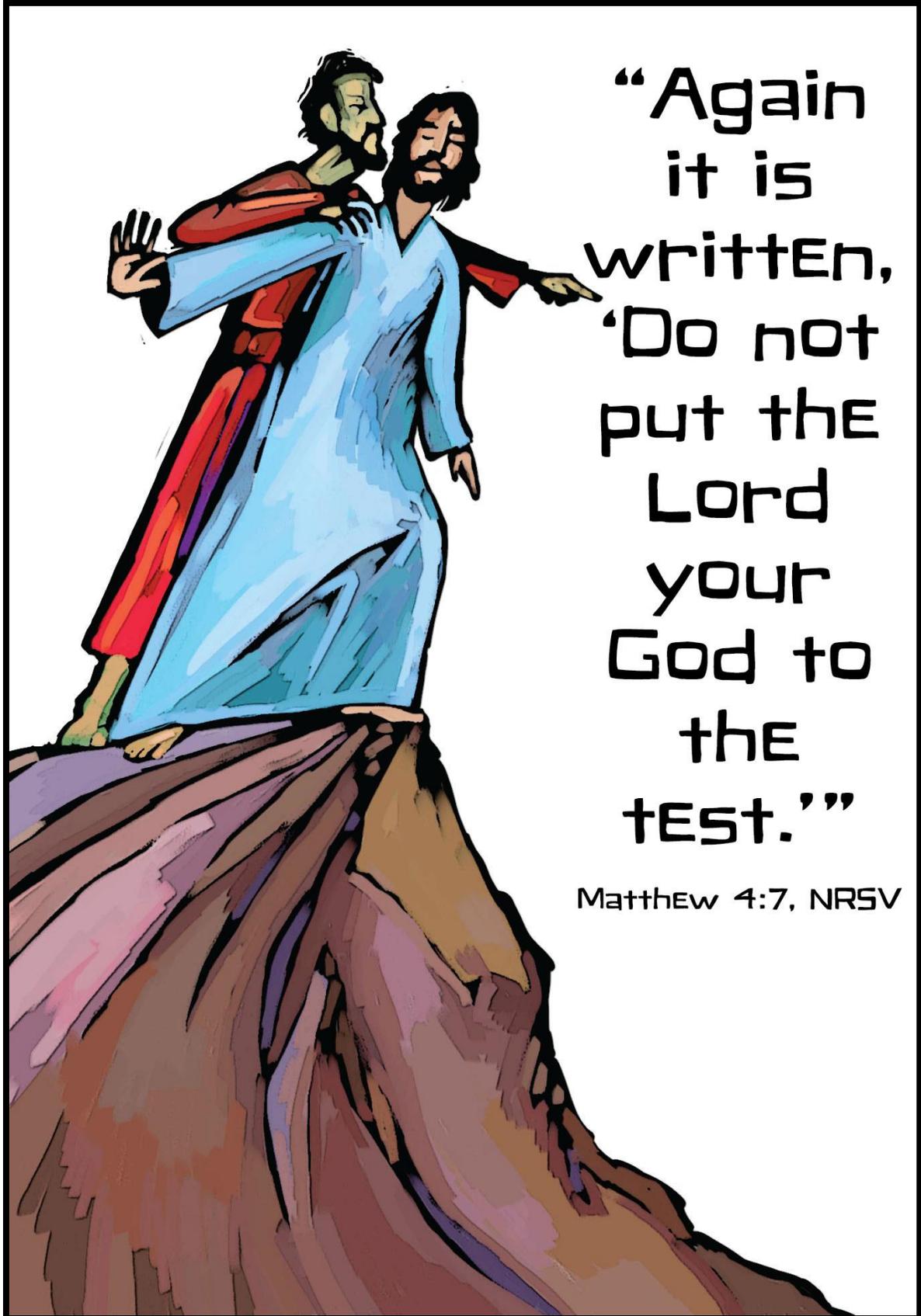


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Lent 1

February 26, 2023



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

REPENT AND BELIEVE

We welcome all who gather here this morning as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. . A special welcome to all guests and visitors. God so loved the world, that He sent Jesus to bear the burden of our sin on the cross, so that we could receive forgiveness, salvation, and life everlasting.

CHRIST DIED FOR YOU!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSION

When we listen for God's word
and follow God's direction for our lives,
our stubbornness melts away
and our tempers are controlled.

When we fail to listen,
and follow other than God's way,
our hearts are hardened
and our lives tormented.

But when we put our trust in God,
we are filled with God's steadfast love.

We shout for joy, O God, and we join the whole created universe in singing your praise.

You dwell in glory unimaginable yet you chose to make that glory visible in the most astonishing way - in and through a human person -Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Through him, you shared our human struggles, for he was tempted in every way as we are.

He was able to confront and survive the wilderness experiences of life because his trust in you provided the strength he needed.

We come before you, O God, as people who frequently stumble and lose the way because we fail to put our whole trust in you.

But we gather here in the wonderful knowledge that you never fail us.

Accept, we pray, our heartfelt prayers and praise for we make them in Jesus' name and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves - where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you. When our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

A time of silence for personal confession

Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.

This we pray in his name. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

God's word proclaims that when we confess our sins to God, we are forgiven, and the Apostle Paul confirms this by reminding us that just as Adam's sin led to condemnation for all, so one man's - Jesus' - act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. And so I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***OPENING SONG**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

104

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.*

*All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.*

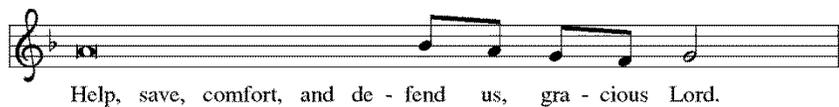
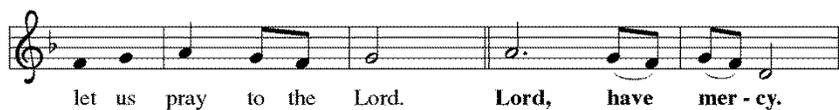
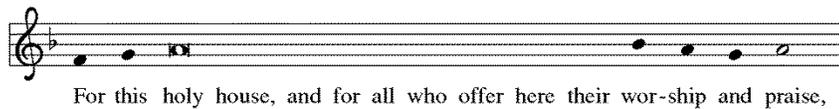
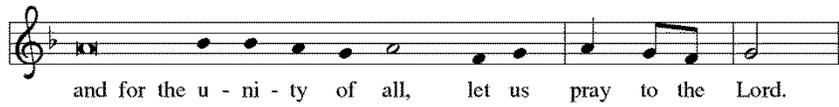
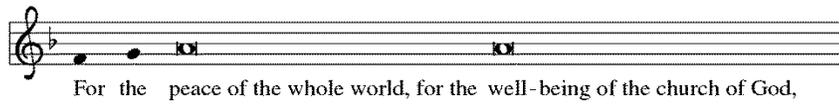
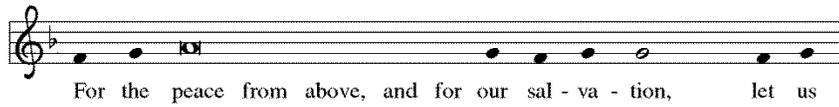
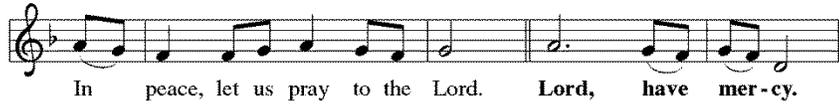
Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*SHARING THE PEACE

*KYRIE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 5:12-19

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

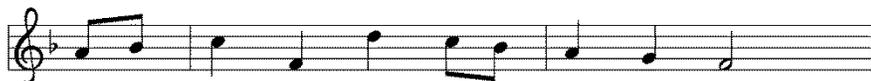
¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 4:1-11

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying 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,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

SONG OF THE DAY

“If you But Trust in God to Guide You”

453

*If you but trust in God to guide you
and place your confidence in him,
you’ll find him always there beside you,
to give you hope and strength within.
For those who trust God’s changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.*

*What gain is there in futile weeping,
in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in his care and keeping,
in sorrow will he love you less?
For he who took for you a cross
will bring you safe through ev’ry loss.*

*In patient trust await his leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate’er your Father’s pleasure
and all-discerning love have sent;
doubt not your inmost wants are known
to him who chose you for his own.*

*Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully,
and trust his word; though undeserving,
you’ll find his promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in him indeed.*

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite, alt.
St. 2 text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 COMMUNITY**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG**
ELW # 186

"Create in Me..."

*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.*

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*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.*

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Walk with Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20852.*

If You . . .

In today's gospel, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. This story recalls that of Job, whose righteousness God also allowed to be tested. Both Job and Jesus are urged to turn away from what they know to be true and faithful. In Job's case, it is his friends who are relentless in making this enticement.

Another commonality in these stories is the phrase "If you." Three times in today's gospel the tempter says to Jesus, "If you . . ." In Job's story, this phrase is hurled back and forth between him and his friends. These two little words are meant to test and are always conditional: If you do or do not meet the condition, some consequence or other will follow.

In a world full of conditions, it can be hard to believe that God's saving work is completely unconditional. Even we who proclaim God's free gift of grace might fall into saying it is free *if you* accept it. We cling to the work we might do to make ourselves right with God.

In his Small Catechism explanation of the sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther suggests that God does not tempt anyone, but that the devil, the world, and we ourselves provide plenty in the way of opportunities to be led astray. God does not need to provide conditions and tests—we excel at this all on our own. When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," Luther says we are praying for God's protection. This is never conditional. We pray for God's protection so we might learn to see it in the world and in ourselves.

When you pray the Lord's Prayer today, regardless of the temptations you face, know that you are a beloved child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made to be an instrument of God's unconditional grace in and for the world.