

# **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**March 09, 2014**



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**“Chosen by God, Led by the Spirit in Worship,  
Prayer, and Praise, in Hope for Today and  
Tomorrow for all People.”**

**Jon Bielfeldt, Pastor**

Ellen Hodon, Organist

Joyce Beran, Reader

## INTRODUCTION

*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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN: *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* (ELW 319)

1 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

2 You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.

3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.

4 Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

## GREETING ELW p. 203

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.**

## KYRIE ELW p. 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new**

hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O Lord God, you would have us put no trust in anything we do. Mercifully grant that by your power we may be defended against all adversity; through your Son, 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

A reading from 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Genesis.

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So 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. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." <sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." <sup>20</sup>The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 32:1-7

L: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

**C: Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

L: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning `all day long.

**C: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

**C: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

L: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12–19**

A reading from 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For 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**

ELW p. 205

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind— slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1–11**

The holy gospel according to 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 505)

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper frees us from the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe, forsworn to work us woe, with guile and dreadful might is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no equal.

2 If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing; the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing. You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim! None else can win the battle.

3 Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us, we tremble not, we trust God's will: they cannot overpower us. Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage, this tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail! One little word shall triumph.

4 God's Word shall stand above the powers, shall end all their thanksgiving. The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for God with us is living. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; though all of these be gone, they yet have nothing won. The kingdom's our forever!

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Lord, we often take you for granted and lose our focus on you in the busyness of everyday living. We thank you for your Spirit who constantly corrects us and brings us back into you, our center of being. Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, grant that in this season of Lent, we may be drawn to you in humility and sincerity. By your Holy Spirit, may we abandon all religious pretense and display, so that we may know the blessing of faithful obedience, taking up our cross to follow you. Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, we give you thanks for the blessing of peace in our world, in our homes and in our lives. End conflict and strife among us that we may live in dignity and safety. Protect men and women who serve in armed forces around the globe. Grant patience and comfort to those who await their safe return. Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

Visit and relieve, O Lord, your servants who are ill, for whom we now make supplication, naming them in our hearts [pause]. Comfort them with a sure confidence in your care, defend them in danger, and keep them in your lasting peace and safety. Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW 186)**

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.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN: *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)**

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **DOXOLOGY: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### **Lessons for Next Week: Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-8, 13-17, John 3:1-17**

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## **Listening for the Promise** Weekly Devotional Lent 1 — March 9, 2014

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” Matthew 4:1

Many large companies have programs to develop new managers. The programs include lessons on every aspect of the corporation, including tasks managers may not engage in but will supervise. The trainees learn the ins and outs of the company and how to succeed. They are mentored by supervisors until they are ready to take on their own positions in the company. Once the training is over, many young managers seek out better jobs with higher pay and better benefits. They think they are ready for anything, and they think they don't need any more training. Usually they have to do it all again; the new company requires its own training. The young managers are often tempted to skip the activities, thinking they have seen it all before. The humble ones learn that repeated training is necessary. Vocation is not simply a matter of getting a job, or knowing about a job; it is a matter of doing the job.

Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, newly baptized by John the Baptist, was sent to the wilderness on a training program. He had nothing to learn. He could stop a storm and send demons running over cliffs with just a word. He could make the lame walk, the blind see and the deaf hear. He could make God's Kingdom real. Yet, before Jesus could begin his ministry, the Holy Spirit sent him into the wilderness to be tested and tempted. It was a time of preparation and strengthening. The devil may have tried to turn Jesus away from his given path, but God made him ready. When it comes to faith, we wonder why we would need a time of discipline and training, especially since we've gone through Lent many times. But during the forty “training days” of Lent, we put into practice the very marks of faith. Lent is a time for prayer, repentance, discernment and self-denial. Even though we have already done these things many times before, the Lenten journey is an opportunity for us to actually do it. In this life we will always face temptations and testing, but we need not be afraid. We won't do it alone; God's Spirit will guide us in the right path with a renewed sense of assurance and trust in him.