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## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Temped or Tested?  
February 21, 2021



### 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.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### HYMN

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” *LSB 418*

- 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,  
Since we have known 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.**

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#### INVOCATION

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

#### OPENING SENTENCES

*Mark 14:38; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12–13*

**Pastor:** Jesus said, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”  
**People:** **Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**  
**Pastor:** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

**People:** God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Romans 6:20, 22–23, adapted; Mark 1:15*

**Pastor:** God's Word reminds us that when we were slaves of sin, we were free in regard to righteousness.

**People:** **But now that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**

**Pastor:** For the wages of sin is death,

**People:** **but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sins to God, who has brought us out of slavery and promises to lead us to the promised land of heaven.

*A moment for silent confession.*

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, we know we are blessed when we remain steadfast under trial, yet we fall prey to the devil's schemes and give in to temptation. We are lured and enticed by our own evil desires—desires that contradict your good and gracious will.

**People:** **For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**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." To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus.

**People:** **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

### INTROIT HYMN

"On Eagles' Wings" LSB 727

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!" Refrain**

**ref And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under His wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield. Refrain**

**3 You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you,  
Near you it shall not come. Refrain**

**4 For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain**

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**KYRIE**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

**People: Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.**

Pastor: O LORD, hear our prayer.

**People: And let our cry come to You!**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Genesis 22:1–18*

(God tested Abraham.)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**

*Hebrews 12:2*

Pastor: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**People: the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

Pastor: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

**People: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## EPISTLE

*James 1:12–18*

(The path temptation treads)

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. 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. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 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. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 1:9–15*

(Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ, You Walked the Road" *LSB 424*

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **No bread of earth alone  
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
The food Your grace imparts.**
- 3 **No blinding sign we ask,  
No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone  
In Your unswerving love.**
- 4 **When lures of easy gain  
With promise brightly shine,  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
Our wills with Yours align.**
- 5 **O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour  
To fight our ancient foe.**

## SERMON

"Immovable Promises"  
Genesis 22:1-18

## HYMN

"Just as I Am, without One Plea" LSB 570

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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## CATECHISM

*The Sixth Petition and Explanation*

Pastor: And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?

People: **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

"Create in Me" LSB 956

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence;  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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

*“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LSB 656*

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That hath us now o'ertaken.  
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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill;  
They shall not overpow'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.

**4 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.**

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