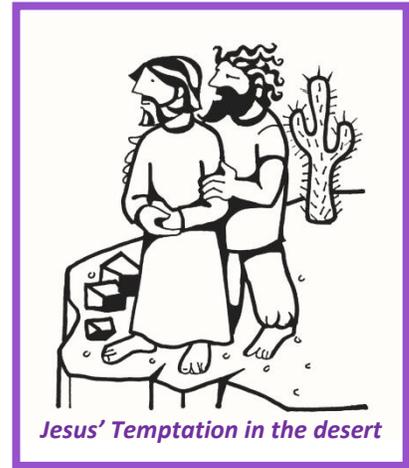


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A



Jesus' Temptation in the desert

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 32

- 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. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- C: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- L: You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- C: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**
- L: Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- C: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- L: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

HYMN *Bless Now O God the Journey*

ELW 326 All vss

- 1 **Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**
- 2 **Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.**
- 3 **Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

All: 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.

CHILDREN'S WORD

A READING FROM: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: MATTHEW 4:1-11

C: 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.

P: THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD. C: **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON *Pastor Julie Rogness*

HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325 All vss

- 1 **I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2 **In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 3 **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

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 — SHARING THE PEACE

GRATITUDE IN ACTION—OFFERING—OFFERTORY—GLOBE OFFERING...

Children are invited to bring forward an offering to the globe in the front of the church. Globe offerings will go to one of our global mission partners to be decided by our youth.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of good gifts,
C: **receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,
C: **we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life. This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION—LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: *Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness*

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN *When Peace Like a River*

ELW 785 All vss.

1 **When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say**

Refrain: **It is well (*it is well*) with my soul, (*with my soul,*)
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

- 2 **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.**

*Refrain: It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

- 3 **He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain**

- 4 **Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain**

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

BENEDICTION

P: God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
C **Amen.**

HYMN

Jesus Still Lead On

ELW 624 All vss.

- 1 **Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;
guide us by your hand to the promised land.**
- 2 **If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
let no faithless fears o'ertake us,
let not faith and hope forsake us;
safely past the foe to our home we go.**
- 3 **When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
when temptations come alluring
make us patient and enduring;
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.**
- 4 **Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
heav'nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand in the promised land.**

Ringing of Bell

DISMISSAL L: Go in peace. Serve in love.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

