

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Tempted or Tested?

February 21, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

Today we hear of God testing Jesus. James reminds us that we know whether God is testing James reminds us that “Every

from above, coming down from 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.

Abraham and of Satan tempting God tempts no one. So, how can us or Satan is tempting us? good gift and every perfect gift is the Father of lights with whom

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

# 97 or LW 94

**1** Christ, the Life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ your-self for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through your suff’ring, death, and merit  
Life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
Dearest Jesus, unto you.

**2** You have suffered great affliction  
And have borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
For you chose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
Dearest Jesus, unto you.

**3** Then, for all that bought my pardon,  
For the sorrows deep and sore,  
For the anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank you evermore,  
Thank you for the groaning, sighing,  
For the bleeding and the dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
Praise you evermore on high.

## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.**

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

P: Jesus said, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation."  
C: **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

P: Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion,  
C: **seeking someone to devour.**

P: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.  
C: **No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.**

P: God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
C: **but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape,**

P: that you may be able to endure it.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: The wages of sin is death,

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

P: 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.*

P: 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.

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

P: 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." As you have repented of your sins, believe these words as if Jesus was standing here speaking them to you: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## **✠ WORD ✠**

## **KYRIE**

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Genesis 22:1–18*     (God tested Abraham.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**     *Hebrews 12:2*

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

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

L: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,

**C: despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## **EPISTLE**     *James 1:12–18*     (The path temptation treads)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**     *Mark 1:9–15*     (Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.)

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

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

(The Gospel is read.)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”      # 99 or LW 92

**1** O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from the 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.

**SERMON**

**CATECHISM**      *The Sixth Petition of The Lord’s Prayer and Explanation*

P: And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?  
All: **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.**

**Thank you** for your faithful support during this prolonged period of difficulty.

**+ GOD’S PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL +**

**AS WE PREPARE FOR PRAYER AND THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, SOFT MUSIC IS PLAYED**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**      *Psalm 25:4–6, adapted*

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you to lift up your souls to our God in whom we trust, as Christ, our Lord, promises to hear us.

Lord Jesus, You are the Lord of the Church.  
C: **Bless the work of our congregation and all who bear Your name.**

P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD,  
C: **and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Lord Jesus, the government is on Your shoulders.  
**C: Watch over all in this world. Guide the world's leaders with Your wisdom, as well as our elected officials—that we may live peaceful and quiet lives.**

P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD,  
**C: and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Lord Jesus, You are our Teacher.  
**C: Make us to know Your ways, O LORD; teach us Your paths. Lead us in Your truth and teach us.**

P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD,  
**C: and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Lord Jesus, You are the God of our salvation.  
**C: Guide us, Lord, in living lives that bear witness to Your truth.**

P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD,  
**C: and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Lord Jesus, You are the Great Physician.  
**C: Bind up the brokenhearted, give sight to the blind, make the lame to walk and the deaf to hear.**

P: We name before You those who are struggling in body, mind, and spirit and ask You to heal them:  
Remember Your mercy, O LORD,  
**C: and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your great mercy to hear and answer us.  
**C: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*  
**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **SANCTUS**

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**C:** 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.

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PAX DOMINI**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C:** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

**All:** 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.

(Sit)

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## THE BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for pouring out Your body and blood and serving it to us in this Meal in bread and wine. In Your mercy, strengthen and lead us as we face temptations and testing in this life on our way to the life to come, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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### BENEDICTION *James 6:12*

P: 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 blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

### HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” # 229 or LW: 297

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressors rod  
And wins salvation glorious  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe;  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight;  
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only son adored.  
He holds the field forever.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land,  
All threat'ning to devour us.  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let his world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgement must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

**4** God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

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