



*"The devil doesn't need to invent any new temptations; the old ones work as well as they ever have." Billy Graham, 20th century*

## **The First Sunday in Lent**

**Welcome to Worship**

**Announcements**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

*(...singing Happy Birthday, God Loves You!)*

**Choral Introit?**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Please Stand in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

For forty days and forty nights

**All: our Savior fasted in the wilderness..**

Tempted to turn from God, tempted to turn to power and privilege our Savior resisted.

**All: Let us follow Jesus through the wilderness this Lent, examining our temptations, resisting them and returning to God.**

Let us worship God.

**\*Opening Hymn #835 Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith. We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. Amen**

**A Time of Silence** *[Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God’s beloved child.]*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with each other)*

**Celebrations, Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer...**

**“Our Father...**

**Our Offerings to God**

**Offertory Music**

**\*Doxology (607)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Christ, all people here below;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore;*

*Praise Triune God, Whom we adore. Amen*

## **Offering Prayer**

**God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing and the destitute. Amen**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray: God of grace, help us seek you and the message you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.

## **Scripture 2 Corinthians 4:7-12,16-18**

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us but life in you...

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

## **Anthem Rain Down**

## **Scripture Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. Jesus ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to

him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

Then the devil led Jesus up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to Jesus, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered the devil, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil Jesus him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from Jesus until an opportune time.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Message**

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

**\*Sending Hymn** Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley (see insert)

**\*Benediction**

**\*Song: Let There be Peace on Earth**

**Postlude:**

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

“Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith— through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient Christian practice, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of Baptism at Easter. In many churches, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for Baptism or confirmation, and for the whole community of faith to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. Reconciliation is a key theme in the season of Lent—reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ. Lent is a period of forty days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday, at the start of the Great Vigil of Easter.