

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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” *LSB 809*



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

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INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

GOD'S KIDS [Song: "Here I Stand"; Message: Sharing the Good News of Jesus; Prayer]

Here I stand, not on sand.
 I am standing on the love of the Lord.
 He's my Rock, (He's my Rock.)
 He's my Rock, (He's my Rock.)
 He's a solid Rock that's under me.
 So I stand. (so I stand.)

Not on sand. (not on sand.)
But on God's love that lasts eternally.

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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." 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.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16*

Pastor: When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.

People: **Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.**

Pastor: For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

People: **On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

Pastor: You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

People: **When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.**

KYRIE *James 1:18; Psalm 102:1, adapted*

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 I am." ²He 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." ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then 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." ⁶And 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. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He 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." ¹³And 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. ¹⁴So 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."

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Ephesians 6:11*

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

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

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

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

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and 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 wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

SERMON

God Works in Mysterious Ways - Genesis 22:1-18

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 *Psalm 25:4–6, adapted*

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

Lord Jesus, You are the Lord of the Church.

People: **Bless the work of our congregation and all who bear Your name.**

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD,

People: **and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the government is on Your shoulders.

People: **Watch over all in this world. Guide the world's leaders with Your wisdom, as well as our elected officials—our president, our governor, and our local authorities—that we may live peaceful and quiet lives.**

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD,

People: **and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are our Teacher.
People: **Make us to know Your ways, O LORD; teach us Your paths. Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation; for You we wait all the day long.**

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

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are the God of our salvation.
People: **Guide us, Lord, in living lives that bear witness to Your truth. Lead us to connect with those who are wandering or who do not know You.**

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

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

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

[Additional petitions may follow. After each petition the pastor prays: Let us pray to the Lord, and the people respond: Lord, have mercy.]

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

HYMN

“The God of Abraham Praise” LSB 798 v. 1, 3,

1 The God of Abr’ham praise,
 Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days
 And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM!
 By earth and heav’n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
 Forever blest.

3 The God of Abr’ham praise,
 Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days
 In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend;
 He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end
 Through Jesus’ blood.

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Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

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