



First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 (Setting 4)

So, first, we want to note and learn from the example of our dear Lord Christ [*the temptation Matthew 4:1-11*] that every Christian as soon as he's baptized, is marshaled into an army in confrontation with the devil, and from his baptism onward is saddled with the devil who harasses him as long as he lives. If this bitter enemy cannot by his onslaughts get the better of Christians and bring about their downfall, he seeks to hang them on the cross and kill them as he did Christ.

All Christians face such attack, for the adversary never relents but continues to try to wrench us away from Christ and our baptism, by means of hunger or persecution, by worldly fame and wealth, or by heresy or false interpretation of Scriptures, so that we give way to despair and vain glory. If such tricks fail, the devil tries to get us by the throat and strangle us to death. We can learn from Christ's encounter with Satan how to deal with and overcome this adversary, so that he's forced to let us go. However, this happens only through true faith in God and his Word. Whoever thus arms himself properly will be able to withstand the devil; but whoever fails to do so will certainly be helpless against this deadly adversary.

It is the bounded duty, therefore, of every Christian to earnestly hear God's Word and its preaching, diligently learn and become well-versed therein. We also should persevere in earnest prayer that God would let his kingdom come among us, not lead us into temptation, but graciously deliver us from evil.

—*Luther Invocavit – First Sunday in Lent 1534*
Luther's House Postils, vol. 1, p. 313

Welcome

We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn Lord, Throughout These Forty Days | 418

Confession & Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. [Matt 28:19b; 18-20]

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.**

[Psalm 124:8]]

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

[Psalm 130:3-4]

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

Psalm

[Psalm 32:1-7]

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

**I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Kyrie

[Southwell LSB 424]

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** [1Timothy 4:22]

Let us pray... *[silence for individual prayer]* 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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman he said,

I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;

in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you,

'You shall not eat of it,'

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust,

and to dust you shall return."

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the

LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. [Genesis 3:1-21]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading is from Romans.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. [Romans 5:12-19]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. [Matt 4:1-11]

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.

Children’s Talk

Please sit. The children are invited forward for a message based on today’s Scripture readings led by Pastor Fitch:

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress | 657

Sermon

Our Confession of Faith

Please stand to confess the Apostles’ Creed printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

...let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the Life at Faith insert. Please be seated.

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay

Please stand.



Hymn

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation.* [LSB 422]

Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 singing:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

The Lord’s Prayer

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He taught us:

**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.** [Matt 6:9-13]

The Words of Our Lord

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 + 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 is My + blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** [John 20:19]

Lamb of God

[John 1:29]

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

The wine is served first by individual cups. The right side of the individual cup tray contains diluted wine. If you desire to commune from the common cup please extend both hands in an open position. The pastor will bring the gifts to you in your seat, please inform an usher or the pastor as needed.

Hymns

Choir Chimes

Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken | **521**

The Tree of Life | **561**

When all have communed, please stand.

Post Communion Song

[Luke 2:29-32]

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Announcements

[Galatians 6:10]

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you + peace. **Amen.** [Psalm 103:1; Numbers 6:24-26]

Hymn

Almighty Father, Bless the Word | **923**

Postlude

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Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

Faith Lutheran
Church

P O Box 1164
Columbus, Indiana 47202
812/342-3587
www.faithlutheranweb.org

Church Office
office@faithlutheranweb.org
Missy Collins
Sarah Dill

Pastors
Josiah Fitch
pastor@faithlutheranweb.org
Richard Tremain
Pastor Emeritus

Church Council
Tom Rafferty, Chair
*If you would like a
Board Chair's email,
contact the church office

Church Elders
Michael Waltz, Chair
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Mercy Ministry
Regina Allman, Chair
Stewardship Ministry
Bill Schnackel, Chair

Christian Education
Susan Waltz, Chair
Laurel Weddle, Preschool
Committee Chair
Child Care Director
preschool@faithlutheranweb.org