

+DIVINE SERVICE I+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT + 18 FEBRUARY 2024+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Today we have two selections by J. S. Bach's cousin Johann Gottfried Walther.

“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” is a traditional chorale for the first Sunday in Lent. The melody is presented in the pedal throughout, which rich counterpoint in the upper voices. This is a common technique among Baroque composers. The melody is meant to be heard, but not necessarily to overpower the upper parts.

“A Mighty Fortress” is presented somewhat differently. The melody is heard first in the soprano, the moves to the pedal, and returns to the soprano. The pedal then drops out until the final cadence.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
 fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
 skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
 ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930
 Tune: The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh
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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16

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 sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*

the Most High, who is my | refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.

For he will command his angels con- | cerning you*

to guard you in | all your ways.

On their hands they will | bear you up,*

lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*

the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

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

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 sat- | isfy him*
 and show him my sal- | vation.

Kyrie

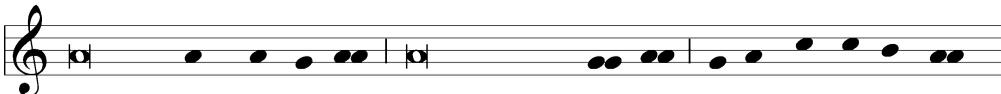
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



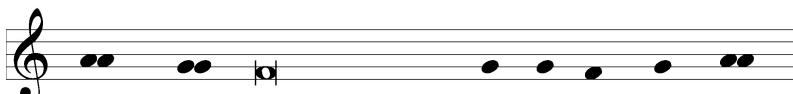
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

✠ This Is the Feast is omitted during Lent ✠

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

The Sacrifice of Isaac

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." 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 am I, 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 am I." 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, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

Teach Me Your Paths

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

Epistle

James 1:12-18

¹²Blessed 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. ¹³Let 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. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every 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. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (Lent)

LSB 173

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The Baptism of Jesus

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 opening 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."

The Temptation of Jesus

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.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

424 O Christ, You Walked the Road



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.

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Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, in the midst of this life we are beset by many temptations. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us and resisted to the point of death, and bring us through the evils of this fallen world to dwell with You forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Lord God, You placed the wood of the cross on the back of Your only begotten Son, that as the promised offspring of Abraham He might possess the gates of hell. Bless, we pray, His Church and all those called to preach and teach within her. Give them certainty that hell cannot prevail against them, and so embolden them in faith to trample every power of the enemy underfoot. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Almighty God, preserve all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As Your Son overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, so also give us the victory through Christ and His Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift comes down to us from above, keep us from being enticed by our own desires to misuse Your gifts. Help us use them rightly in service to You and our neighbor. Bless Joseph and all our leaders, that we may be governed wisely and justly for the good of this present generation and those to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Most High God, our refuge in every trouble, You have promised to hear when we call to You. Command Your angels to guard our brothers and sisters and all who suffer in our midst *especially Alice, Betty, Bev, Cynthia, Diane, Gene, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, Owen, Ron, Susie, and Timothy*. Keep them from every evil that can befall the body, mind or soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Lord God, the time is fulfilled and Your kingdom is at hand as Your beloved Son comes to us here at the altar. By Your Spirit, grant that we receive Him in repentance and believe the Gospel proclaimed in His body given and His blood shed for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, see how the adversary continually afflicts us and walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We implore You for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and to strengthen our hearts by Your Word, that our enemy would not prevail over us, but instead that we may abide evermore in Your grace and be preserved to life everlasting; through the same Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

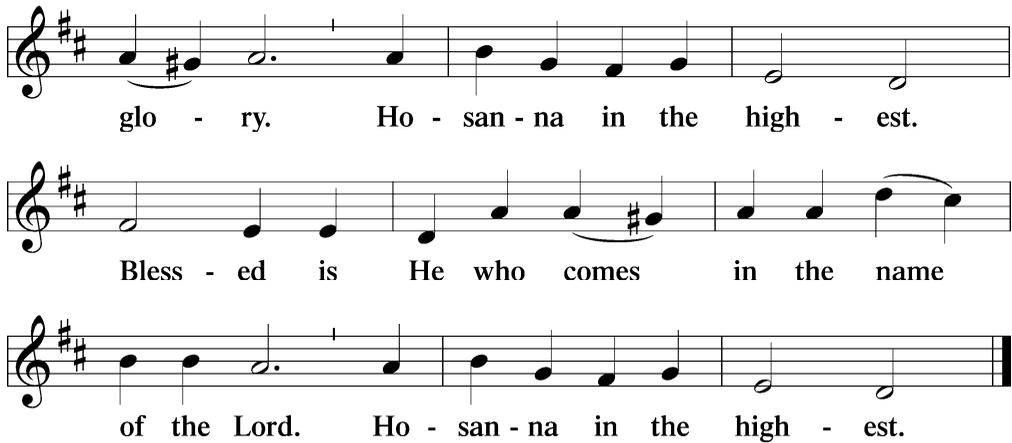
LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178

G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

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 ✝ 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 ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

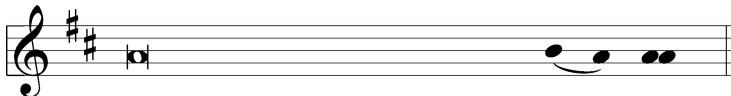
C Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.
And with the wine the blood He shed.
His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

- 5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.
- 6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.
- 7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:

Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.

8 "For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?"

9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.

Distribution Hymn

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Nunc Dimittis

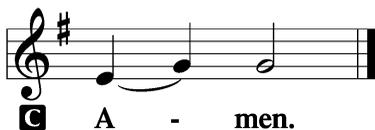
LSB 182



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

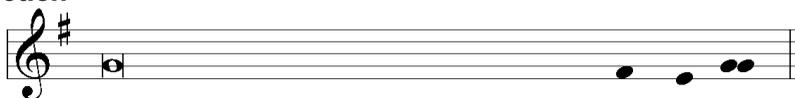
P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Hymn to Depart

656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



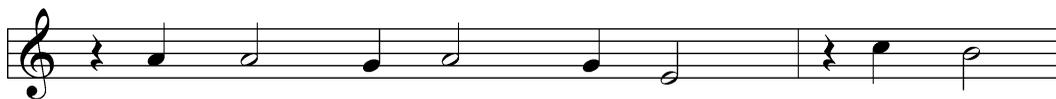
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

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A Mighty Fortress is Our God

J. G. Walther

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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance: 41**
Midweek Attendance: 17
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** February 18th Marie
February 25th Susie
Cleanup for February: Marie and Susie
- + **Ushers for February:** Clinton Galloway and Jose Lopez
- + **If you are interested in Lenten Devotionals, there are devotionals located on the back table in the Narthex.**
- + **Sunday Morning Bible Study resumed this morning. Join us at 8:30am before service as Pastor Killian leads us through a study of the Book of Concord!**
- + **We will be holding Lenten suppers on Wednesdays. If you would like to contribute to one of the weeks, there is a sign-up sheet on the coffee table in the Narthex.**

February Birthdays!

Greg Griffin 20th
Marlene Wood 28th

Midweek Lenten Services

- First Midweek in Lent "First & Second Commandment" – February 21st @ 7pm**
- Second Midweek in Lent "Third & Fourth Commandment" – February 28th @ 7pm**
- Third Midweek in Lent "Fifth & Sixth Commandment" – March 6th @ 7pm**
- Fourth Midweek in Lent "Seventh & Eighth Commandment" – March 13th @ 7pm**
- Fifth Midweek in Lent "Ninth & Tenth Commandment" – March 20th @ 7pm**

Lenten suppers will be held before service in the Assembly room at 6pm.
If you are interested in contributing to Lenten suppers, speak with Jill Killian!

Lectionary Summary for the First Sunday in Lent

Christ Jesus Defeats Our Temptation and Saves Us by His Faithfulness

In faith and the fear of God, Abraham prepared to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. At the Word of the Lord, he *“took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son.”* And *“when they came to the place of which God had told him,”* Abraham bound Isaac *“and laid him on the altar”* (Gen. 22:6, 9). Then God stayed Abraham’s hand and provided *“for himself the lamb for a burnt offering”* (Gen. 22:8). That Lamb is God’s own beloved Son, Jesus, in whom *“all the nations of the earth”* are blessed (Gen. 22:18). As the Substitute for all the sons of men, Jesus is driven by the Spirit *“into the wilderness”* to be *“tempted by Satan”* (Mark 1:12–13) in order to endure and defeat all temptation. We are tempted by our own desire, which conceives and *“gives birth to sin”* (James 1:14–15). But this blessed Man, Christ Jesus, remained *“steadfast under trial,”* and He has received *“the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him”* (James 1:12). His faithfulness, His victory and His life are now given to us by His grace in the Gospel.

Lutheran’s For Life Thoughts

The Lord God forbid father Abraham from sacrificing his boy Isaac (Genesis 22:12). The lesson extends to us, too. Abortion is immoral because it is unnecessary. Jesus alone serves as beast of burden in the solemn rite of righting wrongs (Mark 1:13). Death always hatches from sin (James 1:15), but we belong in the business of redemption. If God’s forgiveness forgets even abortion (Psalm 25:7), we ought to forget about it also.

A Snippet From 1517

...The season of Lent began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter or, synonymously, resurrection life. This is the driving force behind Lent: The Christian practicing the future of resurrection life in the here and now. And this was a legitimate pursuit because Holy Baptism brought resurrection to the human spirit in this life with the resurrection of the body in the life to come.

The Epistle lesson from James suits the motifs of Lent quite well. Although verses 12-18 stretch over two different paragraphs, they sustain the theme of tested faith. James makes it clear he is talking about Christian trials: *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness”* (1:2). As the conversation advances, verse 12 concludes what preceded it declaring, *“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 content comports and the very same vocabulary provides closure to verses 2-11.

Still, it is a good launching point into 13-15 since the teaching deals with trials.

James first sets the parameters for all discussions regarding theodicy: *“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”* (1:13). The doctrine and explanation flank each other in this

verse. The what and the why are right there. While God may and does test one's faith and life, yet He does not tempt with sin. He does not allure and entice toward ungodliness but rather permits and provides avenues for the testing, that is, the strengthening of faith.

Why? Why test faith? Think of any engineering project. Engineers put things to the "test" to ensure it can withstand greater and greater trials. For us, the greatest trial will be death, that is, actually dying. Faith must be strong because it *seems* like death has the last word. But it does not. Christ does. To believe and live by that requires faith. Such faith is not merely for ourselves but to also help those we love to face the same. It is the iron of faith sharpening iron.

Temptation, however, is another story. Verse 14 discloses the origins of temptation, the sinful self. Inordinate self-love, self-justification, self-gratification, and self-aggrandizement, yes, these come from our own desires (1:14). The consequences follow: "Then desire when it is fully grown brings forth death" (1:15). Those are ungodly desires, sin, and death. Missing from this trajectory is faith in the Christ who redeemed us and gave us His Spirit so we might not "be deceived" by the things that lead to sin and death. Abiding in the Word and walking in the Spirit is the truth antidote to the poison of sinful desires.

Here we have the negative aspect of Lent. Namely, putting away sinful desires, and so, mitigating their consequences. In their place we have the positive or contributive aspect of Lent: Striving for resurrection life in the here and now, since we have been baptized and gifted with faith and the indwelling presence of the Spirit of Christ. Thus, verse 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 of change." The good and perfect gifts of God are, summarily, the Son and the Spirit. The good gifting of God is a result and revelation of His character. He is the promise-making, promise-keeping God, always.

There is a Trinitarian theology of gift to be explored here in the same way there is a Trinitarian theology of communication. It is what theologians call a "first theology" – something basic to understanding God and the phenomena of creation and redemption. The Giver, the Gift, the Given, the Perfect Giver (God the Father) gave the perfect gift (God the Son), through the perfect means (conceived of God the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary). The perfect One comes as perfection through perfection.

And God gives the good and perfect gifts to us and for us. Therefore, verse 18 declares it is from the love of God and of His own grace that He saves us in the way of truth, dispelling all deception and temptation. "Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures." God wants us or, better, desires us to be His own. So, He liberates us by the truth. Christ is that truth ([John 14:6](#)). So, too, our sanctification – the opposite of sinful desire – is by the truth ([John 17:17](#)). This is a marvelous text for the first Sunday in Lent, preaching themes of sin and grace, deception and truth, loss and gift, death and life.

John Bombaro, "Epistle: James 1:12-18 (Lent 1: Series B)", February 2021