

~ The First Sunday in Lent ~



If multiple people are participating, one may serve as leader, reading the light faced type, the rest reading the bold faced type.

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

People: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE ~ LSB 418, vss 1 & 4 (to be read or sung)

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

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

*Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.*

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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.)

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ² He 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.” ³ So 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. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

⁵ Then 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.” ⁶ And 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. ⁷ And 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?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

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

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I 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 Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Here God puts on display the faith of His servant Abraham. What difficult task did He tell Abraham to carry out? How hard would that be?

How long did Abraham put off doing this unpleasant task (verse 3)?

How much time did Abraham have to think on it before he could actually carry it out (verse 4)?

Do you sense a confidence in Abraham’s voice in verses 5 and 8 that after all was said and done, he would have Isaac with him? Do you think he was expecting a resurrection or a substitute?

God commended Abraham for not withholding what was most precious in his life at that point – his only son Isaac, born to him in his old age. Are there things in your life you would be reluctant to give up if God so called you?

God provides a substitute, and so the naming of that place. God makes another promise to Abraham. What is it (verses 17-18)? The singular “offspring” (verse 18) Galatians 3:16 takes to be Christ – by Him all nations would be blessed!

EPISTLE READING

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.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

We all face trials – we are pressured to do wrong, whether it be defrauding someone or not trusting God to take care of us. We should stand firm against disobeying (as Abraham did). God is not to blame (verse 13) – He's not trying to get us to sin: what is (verse 14)?

Sinful desire when it is successful results in what (verse 15)?

Sin, carried out, results in what (verse 15)?

Verse 18 speaks of our spiritual rebirth. How are you different because Jesus is in your life?

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9–15

(Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.)

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And 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.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Based on what you read in verses 9-11, who would you say this person is who is being baptized?

His identity is established!

Mark has the briefest account of Jesus' temptation of the first 3 Gospels. What were the dangers?

What help did He have? Our readings are all about temptations and victory over them.

Jesus' public ministry begins: He preaches in Galilee. “Gospel,” of course, means “good news.” What is the good news Jesus announces to all? Take “Kingdom of God” as “Reign of God.” What does this mean to you? Take comfort in it!

THE NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYERS

Thanks to God for this view of Jesus' true identity;

Help us remember this in trying times;

An end to this pandemic;
Successful provision of the vaccine to many;
God to accomplish His good purposes through this pandemic, leading many to trust in Him;
Protection and strength for our healthcare workers;
Help for the sick;
Help for those seeking employment;
God's wisdom and guidance for our leaders;
God to guide our meditations as we go through the season of Lent;
and any other needs of which you are aware – including names listed in the announcements,
especially...*August...Pryor Roesler...Thurman Frey...Darren Snowden...Darien Bird...Bella
Brittingham...Michael...Bowlín Family (prayer of thanksgiving)...Bradley...Jeanne
Gutermuth...Nolan Roncace... Family & Friends of John Miller †...Family & Friends of Chris
Jones †.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.** (Psalm 103:1)

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
bless and preserve us.

People: **Amen.**



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