



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for March 06, 2022, celebrating the First Sunday in Lent.

Pastor Jack Dressler (**519-250-7210**) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

**** No Wednesday Lenten Service ** and
** There will be NO Maundy Thursday service ****

Pastor Jack will be leading the following services:

March 13 and March 27

Palm Sunday April 10

**** There will be NO Maundy Thursday service ****

Good Friday April 15

Easter April 17

The University Food Bank is struggling to keep their shelves full for their students. During our Lenten journey, let us reach out in love. For the season of Lent, please bring canned food items (beans, fruit, tuna, soup), granola/energy bars, crackers, juice boxes, any other nonperishable food items to church with you. They need our help. We can show God's love to them through our actions.

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "www.trinitylutheran.ca".

Introduction

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall

make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

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

¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' ”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon: Temptations (Anne Drouillard – with acknowledgements to M. Erickson, D. Peterson, J. Tape, G. Jones)

During this season of Lent, some of our lessons will focus on all that Jesus has done for us. In today's gospel, we see that Jesus was tempted by Satan. But despite Satan's best efforts Jesus resisted each temptation---not just for Himself but also for us.

TEMPTATION.....

Have you noticed that every year during Lent, we hear the story of Jesus' temptation? There is something about this story that we need to hear. Is it because temptation is always so close to us? Temptation comes to each of us--in different ways---it seems like it never stops.

Temptation is very much a part of our lives. Jesus was tempted too. The fact that Jesus was tempted lets us know that He was fully human. Last week, in Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, His divinity was revealed. This week, with Satan's temptations, Jesus is shown to be fully human. Jesus knew the pull and strain of temptation just as we do.

The first temptation---"Tell this stone to become bread." For forty days and nights, Jesus had eaten nothing while Satan was there the entire time enticing Him. The Devil first appeals to His human needs. Jesus resists this temptation because to make the stones into bread would have been saying that He didn't trust His Father. Jesus tells the devil "Man shall not live by bread alone." Food and water are very important for our well being but not as important as God's word.

Bread will only meet our physical needs. It cannot satisfy the deep hunger of our souls. We not only need the food that sustains life---we also need the food that makes life rich. Food fills our stomachs. But only God can fill our souls. Food and water may disappear--we may have times of want. But God's word will always be there for us.

The second temptation--"Just bow down to me and I'll give you everything! You'll have the power and glory that are rightfully yours and all you have to do is worship me." Oh the world had so much to offer. It had gold and riches beyond measure just as the devil said. Jesus could be King without the suffering of the cross. But -----when Jesus looked

out over the wilderness, He saw more. He saw more than power and glory. Jesus also saw the suffering, the anguish, the despair of the people. Jesus knew that God had sent Him to give hope to those who despair---- to ease the pain of those who suffer---- to bring forgiveness and peace where there is sin and guilt. How did Jesus respond? -"It is written, worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

The third temptation---"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written--He will command His angels concerning You to guard You--and on their hands they will bear You up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." That sounds reasonable, right? God will protect Jesus. No evil will befall Him not even a cross. If Jesus jumps down and God saves Him--all is well. And if not, then God obviously doesn't love Him. In Psalm 91, it says that God will protect His people as they walk in His ways. And that is exactly what Jesus is going to do----Jesus does not doubt God. Jesus knows what His ministry is. And so His answer to Satan--"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

The passage ends, not by saying--the devil knew he had been defeated and surrendered----but rather----"the devil departed from Him until a more opportune time."

Today's gospel mentions these three temptations. But don't you think that over the course of His life, Jesus pretty much saw and felt others---anger and violence, pride and jealousy, laziness and wanting. You name it, the devil probably threw it at Him. It doesn't matter that Jesus lived 2,000 years ago. He knows the temptations of today--the internet and cell phones-----families that are too busy to connect-----financial, social or family issues. Jesus knows the temptations of a young high school student just as much as He knows the temptations of the 100 year old in a nursing home. Jesus knows them all.

Jesus withstood temptation. He knew who He was. His identity was firmly grounded on the mission for which He came. He didn't come to turn stones into bread. He came to be the bread of life from Heaven. He will give His body as bread for the world.

He didn't come to be the absolute ruler of the world. No, He came to pour Himself out. His ministry is one of service not domination.

And His mission does not include avoiding pain. His mission came with a cross as its final destination.

Satan never stopped trying to get Jesus to sin. The devil was there in the Garden of Gethsemane telling Jesus that He shouldn't die. And he was at the foot of the cross speaking through the soldiers who mockingly called out "If you're the Chosen One save yourself!" He could have come down and destroyed them all. But even as He died, He was faithful. He remained faithful because this is how He saved us.

And since He knows what it means to be tempted, He is going to be there to help us withstand the devil. Jesus wants us to come to Him because He will help us. He will arm us for our daily battles.

Jesus remained the spotless Lamb of God. He conquered temptation for US so that we could use His strength, His perseverance and His victory when we fight those same battles against the devil each and every day.

Living as we do, we can produce moments of happiness but God can deliver lasting joy. We can create a career but God can give us a purpose. We can find reasons to be optimistic but God can give us hope.

There is a hymn that I'm sure is a favourite to all of us:

"Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer."

If a boat is unmoored, it can travel for long distances under the force of the currents. But when it's anchored, it will withstand the currents and the wind. It won't be moved. Temptation tries to shift our centre. If we are not anchored, we gradually move without even knowing it. Being anchored grounds us.

Through the storm of temptation, Jesus remained anchored. He knew who He was. He knew His purpose. He would not be moved by temptation.

Our identity anchors us too. It's an identity we received at our baptism. That identity tells us whose we are. It tells us that we belong to God. We are God's beloved. We have been claimed by God. And neither death nor life, nor anything in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

In Residence: Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle; Dorothy

Needing our prayers: Ed; Pastor Mike & Patti, Donna; Sharon B

Friends of our Members Needing our prayers: Audrey; Greg; Paul; Hilda; Mary

...and all members who may have needs unknown to us

And all those we name in our hearts...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died. Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, bless you this day and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**