



## The First Sunday in Lent “Temptation”

**Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church**  
Rev. Gerhard Mau, Officiating

Sunday, Feb 21, 2021

### CARES

Confesses Jesus as Lord and Savior

Assembles to worship Him

Reaches out to share the Gospel

Educates people to follow Him

Serves our Lord and community

### As We Gather

#### ***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.

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

**Psalm 25:1-10** (*Teach me Your paths.*)

To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.  
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.  
Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!  
Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.  
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

**Collect**

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

## Hymn 657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe.  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his  
might.  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is He,  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage.  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

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## Stewardship Minute

**Mark 1:13** – “**And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.**” God the Father cares for Jesus even in the midst of his temptation in the wilds. God cares for us in every situation as well. Jesus realized this and always acted from the basis of trust in God the Father's provision. This is likewise the basis for our life lived in Christ: God cares for us, so we need not act out of fear or greed.

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.  
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>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.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**Sermon:** "Temptation" (Mark 1:13)

Today I want to talk with you about temptation. Temptation is any situation in which you must decide for God or against God. You have a choice to be made. We either choose the good and the right, or we choose the evil or the easy. Sometimes our hearts ache and our stomachs churn as we think over what to do. Sometimes we are on automatic pilot and don't even think of the consequences of a decision. Satan always uses temptation to lure us into sin and unbelief.

Let's illustrate temptation with two stories from a children's book by C.S. Lewis. C.S. Lewis is considered last century's finest intellectual defender of the Christian faith. His *Chronicles of Narnia* are written on two levels. On one level we read about the adventures of four siblings walking through a wardrobe into another world. On another level, C.S. Lewis is writing about life with God and Jesus Christ who liberates us from temptation and the long, cold winter called sin.

Lucy is the youngest of the four siblings. She is given the mission to find the magic book with the power to make Aslan, the great lion who rules the universe, appear. She finds the book. She opens its pages to find the right spell. She stops at one titled: *An infallible spell to make beautiful her that uttereth it beyond the lot of mortals.*

Lucy looks at the first picture. She sees herself as she now is, standing there, reading this magic book. She looks at the second picture. She sees herself with a terrible expression on her face as she chants the incantation. The third picture shows her as a dazzling beauty like no other woman in the world. The fourth picture shows the young kings and princes of the world courting her because of her great beauty. The fifth picture shows her older sister, Susan.

Susan was always considered the beauty of the family. Susan was kind and generous and never the snob. Now, in this picture, Susan looks ordinary. And Susan's face expresses jealousy of Lucy's dazzling beauty.

Finally, everyone notices Lucy! And nobody cares about Susan. And that is exactly what Lucy wants, people to notice her and not her older sister. So Lucy says to herself: *"I will say the spell. I don't care, I will say the spell."* And why does Lucy say *"I don't care?"* Because she knows better. She knows don't chant the spell. She knows it will lead to no good. She knows it's not right. But she wants what she wants and don't we all in times of temptation!

Well, she looks one more time into the book of magic. She sees the face of a lion. It's Aslan, the ruler of the universe. Aslan had warned her against such spells. Jesus has warned us of what is evil and wicked and bad and what can only lead to great misery and sorrow. She becomes frightened. And her face reddens with embarrassment and shame. Quickly, turn the page. Quickly, get away from that face of the lion who rules the universe. Quickly, leave the words of the spell that can never deliver on goodness and wholeness and love and real beauty. Best to carry out the mission our Lord gives us in life than be distracted by temptation. We resist temptation by remembering Jesus as He is, as the great ruler of the universe who will come again to judge the heavens and the earth.

Let's remain with Lucy for our second lesson on temptation. Lucy comes to a spell which lets you know what your friends think of you. Now Lucy has a conscience – and her conscience is working. She knows it's wrong to spy on your friends. But she is so intrigued in finding

out that she hurries to speak the words of the spell before someone or something convinces her different. Sadly, no lasting goodness ever comes from going against Jesus' will for our lives.

Having spoken the spell, Lucy looks into the book. She sees her friend speaking with another classmate. The classmate asks: *Now that the new school term is beginning, are you going to spend all your time with that loser Lucy?* Her friend answers, *I didn't spend all my time with her. Yes you did* is the retort! *No I wasn't. And I've got more sense than that. I was getting tired of her anyway.*

And Lucy, red with anger, cries *You beast*. Then Lucy remembers that her friend can't hear her. Her friend is in another world, far away. Lucy is yelling at a picture in a book. Upset, Lucy turns the pages of the book seeking the spell to bring Aslan to her side. Remember, in the story, calling Aslan to her side represents calling Jesus to our side in our time of need.

She finds the spell. Aslan appears. It's a happy reunion until Aslan speaks to Lucy: *Child, I think you have been eavesdropping. Eavesdropping?* Lucy is bewildered. *You listened to what your two schoolfellows were saying about you. Oh that?* Lucy answers. *I never thought that was eavesdropping, Aslan. It was just a little magic.*

Aslan voice becomes firm: *Spying on people is spying. Your friend is weak, but she loves you. She was afraid of the other girl and so said what she does not mean.* Lucy then says with a somber voice: *I don't think I'd ever be able to forget what I heard her say. No you won't,* Aslan adds.

Lucy's face becomes flush. *Oh dear, have I spoiled everything? Do you mean we would have gone on being friends if it hadn't been for this – and been really great friends – all our lives perhaps – and now we never shall?* Aslan answers: *Child, did I not explain to you once before that no one is ever told what would have happened.*

Temptations require decisions from us. Like Lucy, sometimes we know the right but work real fast for the wrong simply for the pleasure of knowing what would happen. That pleasure doesn't last very long. Once done, we can't undo it. The wrong decision can wreck relationships for good. Adam and Eve made the wrong decision. And life hasn't been the same since.

The Holy Spirit drives Jesus into the desert wilderness to test and try Jesus. God will use these 40 days to shape and form His Son for His mission to save you and me. Satan will use these 40 days to tempt Jesus to fail. Satan wants to trick Jesus to make our damnation certain. Who will win this spiritual battle? Who will win the spiritual battle for your soul?

Jesus faces the wild beasts of this life and returns to us victorious and unharmed. Jesus faces the adversary of life and wins as well. Throughout His ministry, Jesus will bind His adversary every time an unclean spirit is cast out. It will seem the wild beasts succeed in nailing Him to the cross. But there He dies for you because He alone can rise from the grave triumphant over every wild beast. He rises to transform you from one glory to another glory in God's image and to transform your thinking with His word.

James today says: *"Blessed is the person who remains steadfast under trial, for when one has stood the test, one will receive the crown of life"* (James 1:12). And what if we fall to temptation. We suffer consequences. And we return to the LORD our God because He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The worse thing about falling into temptation is that the fall leads us to doubt that God can be gracious and merciful and abound in steadfast love. The best thing about returning to the Lord your God is that He is gracious and merciful and abounds in steadfast love because Jesus has stood in for you and succeeded. He has accomplished His mission to save you. He is victory over adversary and wild beast. Will He be your victory as well?

In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Hymn 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,<br>All our sins and griefs to bear!<br>What a privilege to carry<br>Ev'rything to God in prayer!<br>Oh, what peace we often forfeit;<br>Oh, what needless pain we bear—<br>All because we do not carry<br>Ev'rything to God in prayer! | Can we find a friend so faithful<br>Who will all our sorrows share?<br>Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.  |
| 2 Have we trials and temptations?<br>Is there trouble anywhere?<br>We should never be discouraged—<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.   | 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,<br>Cumbered with a load of care?<br>Precious Savior, still our refuge—<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.<br>Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.<br>In His arms He'll take and shield thee;<br>Thou wilt find a solace there. |

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### Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we enter this Lenten season of repentance and renewed devotion, we pray that You would remember us according to Your steadfast love and goodness in Christ and instruct and lead us by Your Spirit in Your ways so that we may repent and believe the Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 with the certainty that those gates cannot prevail against them, that in faith they may boldly trample every power of the enemy underfoot. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 in sin, and help us to use them rightly in service to You and our neighbor. Bless our President, our Governor, and all our leaders, that we may be governed wisely and justly for the good of this present generation and all those to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most High God, our refuge in every trouble, You have promised to hear when we call to You. We pray that You would command Your angels to guard our brothers and sisters, *[especially \_\_\_\_\_,]* and all those who suffer in our midst. Keep them from every evil that can befall the body, mind and soul. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## LET US PRAY FOR

**Cancer:** Karen Cox, Donny Cutaiar, Carol Farmere, Terry Gould, Evelyn Koenig, Sheryl Voyles, Joanne Zieroth, Kristine Marlatt (Hoeft family), Tim Lewis (Pichan family), Irene Giese (Frank family), Virginia Cowles, Linda Pruchnik (Bertram family)

**Surgery:** Becky Adler

**Continued Healing:** Sandy Bryer, Donna Cole, Marlene Heise, Lisa Hicks-Clayton, Mary Murphy, Les Pedersen, Linda Hicks, Ralph Butzke, Ryan Romanczyk & Greg Millville (Cochran family), Marilyn Wischer, Ruth Mackie, & Rosalie Hanson

**Health Concerns:** Bill Dettman, John Fowler, Donna Gorman, Judy, Bill Makowske, Gary Mueller, Steve Scheere, John Schwaegerle, Robert Upsher (Murphy family), Lola, Janeene Rotta, Shirley Brandt, Mary (Addler family), and Coral Lepper (Hanson family)

**Personal Concerns:** Kim McKenna, Pam Gray, and Maurice St. Pierre

**Serving in the Military:** Andrew Bryer, Patrick Dennis, Gunnar Meyering, Michael O'Farrell, David Schultz, Jr., Alex Molnar, Steve Selleck, Kevin Vedder, & Nathan Cooke

**Missionaries:** Rev. & Mrs. Ferry and Brandon & Lynnea Holmes

**Birthdays:** 02/22: Christopher Jennings      02/24: Joseph Pranschke

Dale Prater      Addison Selleck

02/23: Steven Vedder      02/28: Katrina Walton

Lord God, we remember with thanksgiving those before us whom You brought forth by the Word of truth who now live and reign in Your presence with Your Son. As You have also brought us forth by that Word in Baptism, we pray that You would bring us to full maturity by Your Word, that we, too, may be gathered with them to Your Son on the glorious harvest of the Last Day. Lord, we pray in Your Son's name, even as He has taught 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.

### Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

### Mission & Outreach Minute

**Mark 9:2-9:** As we have gathered in God's presence here in worship, we can say along with Peter, "It is good that we are here!" Rather than setting up camp here, our Lord sends us out into the world with a message to share. We are sent to show others Jesus just as we have seen and heard Him in His Good News.

## Next Week's Bible Readings

Psalm 22:23-31    Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16    Romans 5:1-11    Mark 8:27-38



### Sunday Bible Study @ 11:00 a.m. in the Library

Today we look at Jesus' parables of Mark 4:1-34. Join us after Sunday Worship in the library at 11:00 A.M. We can actually have a few more people in the room and still conduct the study safely!



### Curbside Communion: Sunday, Feb 28

Pastor Mau brings Communion to your car after worship Sunday mornings. While he does check to see if anyone is outside, your help in texting him at (847) 962-9068 or calling him in advance is appreciated. Pastor checks his phone for text messages requesting Communion after worship. He also has a warm coat and is warmed by your presence! **Private Communion:** Feel free to make an appointment for a private communion at church or for Pastor Mau to bring communion to your home.



### Wednesday Lenten Worship!

#### **"Return to Prayer"**

**is this Wednesday's focus.**

God commands us to pray, but we seldom do a very good job of it. Through the apostle Paul, we are exhorted to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Peter, James, and John accompany Jesus to the garden, where He prays. His command to them is actually a little softer; it is not that they are to pray, but only that they "watch with Me" (Matthew 26:38), while He does the praying. They are unable to do even that, and they doze off. Our prayer life ebbs and flows; we have seasons of abundant prayer and seasons of drought. Throughout all of it, though, Jesus prays consistently. Join us at Hosanna-Tabor this Wednesday at 7PM or join the Circuit of Congregations at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia at 12:00 P.M. for a similar message of "return to prayer".

### Baby Bottle Campaign for AAA Pregnancy Resource Center

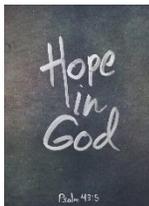


#### **Only 2 weeks remaining!**

Please stop on your way out today and pick up a baby bottle to take to home. Fill the bottle as much as possible with spare change, bills or checks (made out to AAAPRC) and **bring the bottle back on the last Sunday in February.** Please bring your bottle back even if it's just ½ full - every little bit helps



Please turn in March's Newsletter items to Michelle or Gwen in the Church Office by Wednesday morning, Feb 24!



### Inspired by Hope: Reading the Bible in 365 Days

Did you read the challenge in last Wednesday's "Inspired by Hope"? Read the Bible in chronological order! It's only to take 10 minutes per day. Print off page 3 of Inspired by Hope, check off each reading as completed, and use the back side of the page to journal the questions. Compare your journal insights with others meeting the challenge!



# Concordia News



1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Grade Teacher: Karyn Donal

In Math class, we made a store with empty containers brought in by Ms. Donal and the students. We added our own prices to the store and used the products to practice double digit addition and to practice adding pennies, nickels, and dimes together. The class also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on February 9<sup>th</sup> by counting to 100 in Spanish, writing our numbers to 100, finding objects on our 100's poster of 100 different shapes, and looking at the pictures of 100 objects students sent in from home.

In English class, we have learned to classify a sentence with subject nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, article adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions, object of the prepositions, and interjections. We also have been learning to write a complete paragraph with a topic sentence and details about the topic.

In Science class, we are studying about pond animals and ocean animals. We are learning the difference between the animals and why they live in different places. We also recreated a pond and decided which animals live in, near, above, and deep below in the pond.

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## **THANK YOU!!**

We have reached 500 pounds of plastic lids and caps to get our two benches!

We will plan to take them to Indiana and get the benches when the weather is a little warmer and there's no danger of snow and ice. If you still have some caps and lids that you have saved you can bring them and we'll try to find another school that needs them.



**Thank you for**  
**your support**



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## **Concordia's Un-Auction**



Many of you look forward to Concordia's annual auction. A favorite part of the evening is sharing the testimonials of how **YOU** make a difference in the lives of our Concordia students and their families. This year's testimonials can be found on their website in a short video. [www.concordials.org](http://www.concordials.org).

We look forward to the time we can all be together having such fun again. Due to the continuing procedures for safety during this pandemic time our auction for February 14 has been canceled.

Concordia has been open in the building with face-to-face learning since August 2020. We pray that God will continue to bless all of us with good health as we continue the safe procedures. Our school has several new students because of the pandemic, some of whom are hearing the gospel for the first time. When we remember that God is in control and works for the good of those who love Him, we can all do the things we are called to do without worry or fear. Praise God for the good He will bring out of this pandemic!

If you are able to help us recoup some of the funds lost from this cancellation, please consider contributing to the "Un-Auction" using a pew envelope or a designated offering envelope from your 2021 Offering Envelopes and making your check out to Concordia Lutheran School.

Request from your School Board Members: Kris Bieniewicz, Jim Pranschke & Angela Stone.



Can't make Sunday worship? You can still worship with the congregation or visit [hosannatabor.org](http://hosannatabor.org), scroll down the home page and click Sunday worship. Sunday's worship is available Saturday at 10 a.m.

**HOSANNA-TABOR: Feb 21 - 28, 2020**

**Pastor Mau's office hours: Mon, Tue, & Thu 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Pastor Mau may be reached at 847-962-9068 or [gmau@hosannatabor.org](mailto:gmau@hosannatabor.org)**

**Office hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

|       |    |   |            |
|-------|----|---|------------|
| Sun.  | 21 | Worship Service   | 9:30 a.m.  |
|       |    | Bible Study   | 11:00 a.m. |
| Mon.  | 22 |   |            |
| Tues. | 23 | "Inspired by Hope" thoughts and pictures due                  |            |
| Wed   | 24 | March Newsletter articles are due                             |            |
|       |    | Lenten Service  | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Thu.  | 25 | Quilters  | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Fri.  | 26 |   |            |
| Sat.  | 27 | Sunday Worship at Home avail. on our website & at YouTube.com | 10:00 a.m. |
| Sun.  | 28 | Communion Service (Dimes for Missions: Mr. & Mrs. Holmes)     | 9:30 a.m.  |
|       |    | Curbside Communion  | 10:45 a.m. |
|       |    | Bible Study   | 11:00 a.m. |

**SERVING US THIS SUNDAY (Feb 21, 2020)**

**Rev. Gerhard Mau**

**Elders:** Jim Pranschke and Chuck Fischer

**Organist:** Roman Lizak

**Counters:** Bob & Judy Cochran and Chuck Fischer

**SERVING US THIS WEDNESDAY (Feb 24, 2020)**

**Rev. Gerhard Mau**

**Elders:** Chuck Fischer

**Organist:** Roman Lizak

**SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY (Feb 28, 2020)**

**Rev. Gerhard Mau**

**Elders:** Bob Cochran and Mick Giandiletti

**Organist:** Roman Lizak

**Counters:** Mick Giandiletti and Jim Lubeck



**DID YOU KNOW . . .**

- The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and end Easter Day. But the Sundays in Lent are not counted as one of the 40 days of Lent. Each Sunday is a "little Easter".