

# The Temptation of Jesus



## The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

9:30 a.m.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:18–24*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29*

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

*Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass*

#### A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord's Supper from Pastor, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail. We offer gluten free wafers, please advise Pastor Ermeling as he comes by during communion.

## As We Gather

The forty-day temptation of Jesus in the desert reminds us of our own Lenten forty-day pilgrimage, a time of wilderness testing for us as well. With Jesus, we rely on God's Word to overcome the wiles of the devil, trusting in Christ for strength and guidance.

*During Lent the service begins with the Litany and the Collect of the Day.  
This replaces the regular Preparatory Rite, Introit, and Kyrie.*

*Stand*

## ✠ THE LITANY ✠

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>P</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,   | <b>C</b> hear us.             |
| <b>P</b> God the Father in Heaven,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> God the Son, Redeemer of the world,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> God the Holy Spirit,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.  | <b>C</b> Spare us, good Lord. |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.  | <b>C</b> Help us, good Lord.  |
| <b>P</b> From all sin, from all error, from all evil;<br>From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;<br>From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;<br>From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death: |                               |
| <b>C</b> Good Lord, deliver us.  |                               |
| <b>P</b> By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;<br>By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;<br>By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: |                               |
| <b>C</b> Help us, good Lord.   |                               |

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity;  
In the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You:

**C** **to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To rule and govern Your Holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of  
Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to  
sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who  
have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to  
accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the  
weakhearted and the distressed:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to  
give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates  
and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and  
guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness  
in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and  
to have mercy on us all:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and  
preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God:

**C** **We implore You to hear us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

## ✠ ABSOLUTION ✠

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Salutation and Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**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.

Hymn

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

418

Sit

## Old Testament

*Genesis 2:7–9, 15–17; 3:1–7*

*(The fall into sin.)*

<sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

<sup>1</sup>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?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>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.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Hebrews 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
**who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 5:12, 17-19*

*(Adam's trespass is countered by Jesus' act of righteousness.)*

<sup>12</sup>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 —

<sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Tract

*Psalm 91:1, 4a, 15a, 16*

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**He will cover you with His pinions,  
and under His wings you will find refuge.**

When he calls to Me, I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble.

**With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him My salvation.**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

*(Jesus is tempted by Satan in the wilderness.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>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.”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>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.”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## 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.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day**

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

*663 sts. 1-3, 5*

**Sermon**

**Offering**

Stand

## Offertory

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

*At the end of each petition:*

**P** Let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

It is truly meet, 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 saying:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.

## 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 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."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

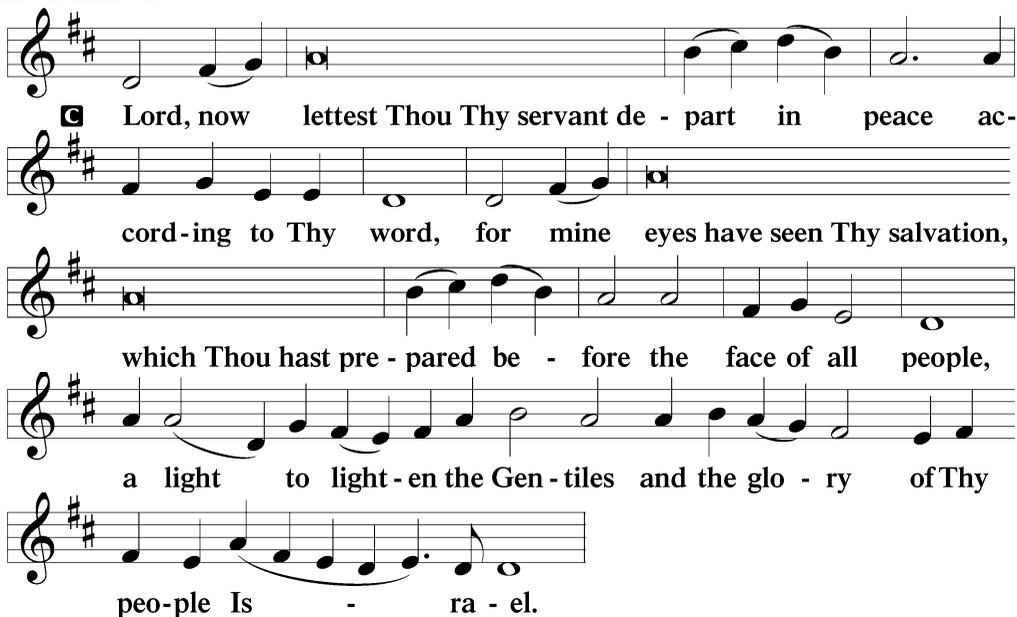
Sit

## Distribution Hymns

The Tree of Life	561
Jesus Comes Today with Healing	620
I Walk in Danger all the Way	716

Stand

## Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo-ple Is - ra - el.

## Thanksgiving

- P** O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.
- C** And His mercy endureth forever.
- P** Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your Only-Begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

## Fight the Good Fight

664

### Acknowledgments

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*"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"*

# BULLETIN NEWS

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, February 22	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
		Sunday School	Library
Monday, February 23	4:30pm	Service Project	Campus Wide
	5:30pm	Bible Study	Library
Thursday, February 26	4:30pm	Service Project	Campus Wide
	5:30pm	Bible Study	Library

## BIRTHDAYS

02/22 – James Quiñones

02/26 – Patsy Hauptman

02/28 – Darrell Ahrens

## ANNIVERSARY

02/26 – Darrell & Louise Ahrens

## SACRED MUSIC FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” “In the Cross of Christ I Glory,” “My Song Is Love Unknown,” “Glory Be to Jesus,” “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth.” You can listen to sacred music for the Lenten season 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

## LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Church and State? Separated? Biblical? Listen to Dr. Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, as he explains how God engages the world in two ways. Listen at <https://tinyurl.com/LCRL2Kingdoms>.

## LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at [info@stpaul Lutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaul Lutheran-az.com). Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.

### ON-GOING CONCERNS:

**Suzi Riley** – recovering from a recent fall.

**Jorge Jimenez** – fighting cancer

**Rose Tressler** – health issues

**Nicholas Jimenez** – health issues

**Sharon Meyer** – recovering from auto accident.

**Wayne Bartels** – ongoing health issues

**Jim Rucker** – health issues

**Pat Haas** – ongoing health issues

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Rei Irmer** (sister of Louise Ahrens) prayers for upcoming surgery and continued healing

### MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, Joan, serving in Japan.

PSWD Missions

### PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Substitute Pastors and their families

Sunday School teachers & children

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

The Rev. Vernen Ermeling and family

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Lexington Life Academy families & staff

**OUR NATION:** For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY** (*members, friends, or relatives*):

**Jackson Buffington** (*Ahrens*), **Maxwell Buffington** (*Ahrens*), **Andy Smiley** (*Parker*), **Julian Perez** (*Perez*)

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Anne Smith