

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME: Jesus meets us in the challenging places of life.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

A WORD ABOUT OUR WORSHIP TODAY

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord;

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

CONFESSING TO GOD

P: We are gathered here today to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and sing His praises. In today's lessons we are going to hear about Jesus' time in the wilderness. The wilderness was a place of limited resource and difficulty. It was the place that Jesus withstood Satan's temptations. To truly know what Jesus did and what it means for us today, let us first begin by thinking about our unworthiness and how we have fallen short in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. During this moment of silence we reflect upon our need for God's help.

Silent Reflection

P: We confess.....

C: Lord, we seek refuge in Your mercy. We are no better than the tax collector who said, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner". Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

P: Jesus did not give in to Satan's temptations in the wilderness. In fact, by living the perfect life free from sin.....and laying down his life for ours, we have received a great gift. Because of Jesus' fulfillment of the law and sacrificial death, your sins are forgiven. I announce this free gift of grace, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN

Lord, I Lift Your Name

- 1 Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord I love to sing your praises,
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
- 2 You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift our name on high

Repeat 1 and 2

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray....

C: Lord God, our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

After God had made a promise to Abraham, God tests him.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 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." 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. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 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." 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. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

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. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 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." 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. 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."

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

New Testament Reading: James 1:12-18

Temptation comes when we are enticed by our own desires.

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

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

Walk By Faith

By Joel Raney

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Jesus is driven out into the wilderness

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

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 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.

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

CHILDREN'S SONG:

He's got the whole world in his hands he's got the whole wide world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands

He's got our friends and our family in his hands he's got our friends and our family in his hands
He's got our friends and our family in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands...

He's got everybody here in his hands he's got everybody here in his hands
He's got everybody here in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands...

He's got the whole world in his hands he's got the whole wide world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Justin Johnson

SERMON SONG "Red Book" 227 Just A Closer Walk With Thee

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.
 Just a closer walk with Thee
 Grant it Jesus, if you please;
 Daily walking close to Thee
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

Thru this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
 Just a closer walk with Thee
 Grant it Jesus, if you please;
 Daily walking close to Thee
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
On that bright eternal shore
I will walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.
 Just a closer walk with Thee
 Grant it Jesus, if you please;
 Daily walking close to Thee
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

SERMON "Trading Places"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
 And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF 2015 CHURCH COUNCIL

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

OFFERTORY

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 114 Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me—this I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong—They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me—loves me still, Though I'm very weak and ill;
That I might from sin be free, Bled and died upon the tree.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me—He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me—He will stay Close beside me all the way,
Though hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for the.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

THE SHARING OF PEACE'S WEBSITE

A CLOSING BLESSING

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**