

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 14, 2016

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: Psalms 103

Bless the Lord, O My Soul Of David.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

New Testament Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Everyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved.

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

CHOIR ANTHEM

Circle of Love

By Pepper Choplin

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

The temptations of Jesus

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve."

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "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."

And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG

Blest Are They

Blest are they, the poor in spirit.....theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow.....they shall be consoled.

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones.....they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst.....they shall have their fill.

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they who show mercy.....mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart.....they shall see God!

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are you who suffer hate.....all because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see!

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C: I believe in God, who has created all things and continues to create new life within us.....
I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By his life, His death and resurrection, I can know the true depth of human possibility, and experience the true joy of an abundant life.....
I believe that the Holy Spirit is present, now and always, calling us to faith, giving us gifts and empowering us for service.
I believe that the community of believers called the church can experience the fullness of life through the word, the sacraments, and all that we do. Amen.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG "Green Book" 501

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

SPECIAL GUEST

Love, Inc.

A CLOSING BLESSING

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**