

*What then shall we say to these things?*

**IF GOD IS FOR US**

**WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?**

*Romans 8:31*

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**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

Lent 1

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Service Theme

**RETHINKING TRIALS, TESTS, AND TEMPTATIONS**

“If God loves us, why doesn’t he remove all the trials and tests and temptations that we face?” That question demonstrates the religious assumption that those things are bad. They aren’t. In the hands of a loving God, they are tools by which he refines our faith. He uses tests as a way to compel us to be less self-reliant, and instead trust in his strength. He uses trials to teach us that this broken world is not our true home. God even takes Satan’s temptations and uses them for our good. Trials, tests, and temptations are not exceptions to God’s love. That’s a false assumption! These are examples of God’s love. Proof is that God allowed his beloved Son Jesus to face trials and temptations, so that he might be our perfect savior and substitute.

## Hymn

CW 121 Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

**1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing  
In your holy wounds I find,  
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling  
Pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within  
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning  
Keep me from its first beginning.**

**2 Should some lust or sharp temptation  
Fascinate my sinful mind,  
Let me think about your passion,  
And new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard,  
Let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"  
That the tempter flee confounded.**

**3 If the world my heart entices  
With the broad and easy road,  
With seductive, sinful vices,  
Let me think about the load  
You were willing to endure;  
Then I'll flee all thoughts impure,  
Mastering each wild temptation,  
Calm in prayer and meditation.**

**4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me  
By your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm weak, your cross revives me,  
Granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, your comfort renders sweet  
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For your all-atoning passion  
Has procured my soul's salvation.**

**5 O my God, my Rock and Tower,  
Grant that in your death I trust,  
Knowing death has lost his power  
Since you crushed him in the dust.  
Savior, let your agony  
Ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection,  
Light and life and resurrection.**

## **DIVINE SERVICE II**

*Christian Worship Supplement, page 28*

### **INVOCATION**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### **CONFESSION**

**M:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I  
have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

**M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**M:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C:** **Amen.**

## GLORY BE TO GOD

- 1 All glory be to God on high!  
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;  
We praise you for your peace and grace,  
Your favor toward our fallen race.
- 2 Our grateful thanks to you we bring,  
For your great glory, heav'nly King,  
For all, O Father, you have done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.
- 3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.  
You take all human sin away.  
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;  
From God's right hand, your mercy share.
- 4 You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;  
The Father's glory you made known.  
We by your Spirit sing again:  
"All glory be to God!" Amen.

## SALUTATION

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

## **FIRST LESSON – Genesis 22:1-18 (EHV)**

*God gives Abraham a test which will demonstrate who Abraham loves and trusts most.*

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, “Abraham!” Abraham answered, “I am here.”

<sup>2</sup>God said, “Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you.”

<sup>3</sup>Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

<sup>5</sup>Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you.” <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

<sup>7</sup>Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father?”

He said, “I am here, my son.”

He said, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

<sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup>They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

<sup>11</sup>The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

Abraham said, “I am here.”

<sup>12</sup>He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>Abraham called the name of that place “The LORD Will Provide.” So it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

<sup>15</sup>The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**PSALM – 25 (CW p. 74)**

*Refrain:*

**Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.**

**The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,\*  
the world, and all who live in it;**

**for he founded it upon the seas\*  
and established it upon the waters.**

**Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?\***  
**Who may stand in his holy place?**

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,\*  
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.**

*Refrain:*

**Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**Who is this King of glory?\***  
**The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.**

**Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**Who is he, this King of glory?\***  
**The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

**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.**

*Refrain:*



## **SECOND READING – Romans 8:31-39 (EHV)**

*The proof of God's love is not that he removes all our trouble. The proof of God's love is that he gave us his Son. If he did that, nothing can separate us from God's love*

<sup>31</sup>What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

<sup>33</sup>Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! <sup>34</sup>Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! <sup>35</sup>What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY – CWS p.31**

We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses; we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Alleluia. (*Hebrews 4:15*)

*(The Alleluias and Gospel responses are omitted during the season of Lent)*

## **GOSPEL – Mark 1:12-15 (EHV)**

*Sometimes we fail to stand firm in trial or temptation.  
But by grace the kingdom of God is still ours because  
Jesus, as our substitute, perfectly overcame all of  
Satan's temptations.*

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

### **Hymn**

*CW201 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That has us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.**

**2 With might of ours can naught be done;  
Soon were our loss effected.  
But for us fights the valiant one  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,  
The almighty Lord.  
And there's no other God;  
He holds the field forever.**

**3 Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill;  
They shall not overpower us.  
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done!  
One little word can fell him.**

**4 The Word they still shall let remain,  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With his good gifts and Spirit.  
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—  
Though all may be gone,  
Our victory is won;  
The kingdom's ours forever!**

### **SERMON TEXT & THEME**

**Romans 8:31-39 ... Nothing Can Separate you from  
God's Love**

- 1) No Accuser
- 2) No Pain or Persecutor
- 3) No Power of any Kind.

**NICENE CREED – CWS p.32**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and  
unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son  
of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from  
God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH –**

Lord Jesus, you are the author and perfecter of our faith. Obeying your Father's will, you endured the cross and scorned its shame. Now you sit at the right hand of the throne of God, governing all things.

Lord, we confess that it was for us and for our salvation that you came to this world to suffer and die. You bore our guilt. You endured our punishment. You experienced the wrath of God in our place. For your unselfish sacrifice on our behalf, help us show our gratitude to you in everything we think, say, and do.

As we walk through life, keep us from becoming entangled by sin. Remove all obstacles and stumbling blocks, and keep us from falling or going astray. Help us run with perseverance the race that you have marked out for us. When that way involves pain, suffering, or persecution, help us view these things as evidence of your loving discipline intended to draw us ever closer to you.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Hold before us the example of those who have gone before, bearing the cross for you. As you led them, so lead us. As you strengthened them, so strengthen us. Keep our eyes fixed on you, for then we shall surely arrive safely at the heavenly home you have prepared for us. Hear us for your mercy's sake. Amen.

## **THE SACRAMENT** (CWS p.33)

### **PREFACE**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

- 1      **O holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven  
In countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us,  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy  
Receive our fervent cry.**
- 2      **Hosanna in the highest!  
How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage—  
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*(Sing)* **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **SONG OF SIMEON - CWS p.37**

- 1     **O Lord, now let your servant  
      Depart in peace, assured:  
      For I have seen your promised  
      incarnate, saving Word—  
      A Light that will enlighten  
      All gloom where Gentiles dwell;  
      The brilliant, crowning glory  
      Of those in Israel!**
- 2     **All glory to the Father,  
      All glory to the Son,  
      All glory to the Spirit,  
      Forever three in one;  
      For as in the beginning,  
      Is now, shall ever be,  
      God's triune name resounding  
      Through all eternity.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

**M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**     **Amen.**



## **BLESSING**

- M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you  
peace.
- C:** **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

CWS 714 The Lamb

**1 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes  
God will provide the Lamb of price!**

*Refrain*

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death  
makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**

**2 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb,  
Let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.**

*Refrain*

**3 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, his will,  
On our behalf the law to fill.**

*Refrain*

**4 He sighs, he dies,  
He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives,  
He gives me his own righteousness.**

*Refrain*

5 He rose, he rose,  
My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong  
'Til ev'ry heart to him belong.

*Refrain*

## Announcements

### **Lenten Series**

#### *Baptized into His Death*

St. Paul writes, "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3). There is a connection between our baptism and Christ's passion. Lent is the perfect season to learn anew all that which God's Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ's saving work. We will study again what our baptism means for our daily lives. And we will rededicate ourselves to the struggle of living the new life Baptism gives. Join us for our upcoming midweek Lent series: Baptized into His Death

### **Week 2 of the Lenten Study Challenge:**

#### *Creating a new habit from scratch*

How was your first week studying? Flying like a horse down the racetrack or perhaps a little more like the tortoise than the hare? Starting a new habit can be challenging and takes hard work. Don't try to do too much. 10 minutes a day - 5 minutes even - goes a long way. Choose a media that you already love. Do you love to watch movies? Watch a Time of Grace devotion. ([timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org)) Love audiobooks rather than reading? Listen to the WELS daily devotions. ([WELS.net](http://WELS.net)) Love to curl up with a good book? Grab your Bible first and read a chapter. Remember the Lord is with you and will bless any time you have studying with him. Enjoy this beautiful new habit.

## **Church Cleaners:**

February 25 – Peter // March 3 - Barnabas

### DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

**Su (18) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship & Communion**  
12:00 pm Sweetheart Dinner  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

Tu (20) 5:30 pm “Test the Spirits” Bible Info. Class  
7:00 pm Elders Meeting

We (21) **7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship**

Th (22) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul’s)  
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (23) 3:00 pm Online Women’s Bible Study  
4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Sa (24) 6:00 pm Lent By Candlelight

**Su (25) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship**

Tu (27) 5:30 pm “Test the Spirits” Bible Info. Class  
7:00 pm Council Meeting

We (28) **7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship**

Th (29) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul’s)  
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (1) 3:00 pm Online Women’s Bible Study  
4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

**Su (3) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship & Communion**  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**



**Divine Word**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**1081 Greenbank Rd.,  
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8  
613-825-1629**

**[www.divinewordottawa.ca](http://www.divinewordottawa.ca)**