

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 9, 2025
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688
(937)298-0136

INTRODUCTION

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

AN IDENTITY ON WHICH WE CAN RELY

In Luke's gospel, the story of Jesus' temptation comes immediately after his baptism and a lengthy listing of his ancestors. Both help confirm the identity of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. Now Jesus is led into the wilderness, where his identity is put to the test by the devil. The specific temptations are in some ways secondary to the question that introduces two of them. Twice the devil asks, "If you are the Son of God . . ." (Luke 4:3, 9), perhaps implying that the devil believes he knows better than Jesus what it means to be God's Son. But Jesus, "full of the Holy Spirit," is able to stand firm in his identity and deny the devil's attempts to redefine who he is.

In our baptisms, we too are given the identity of God's child, and we are given the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our baptisms do not protect us from temptation, even as Jesus himself endured temptation. However, in our baptisms we are given an identity that can help us endure the temptations and the challenges that our lives are bound to include. Baptism gives us the confidence to trust that our identity is defined by our relationship to God, and not by anything else. In this confidence, we can accept our failures and shortcomings and live boldly in a manner that seeks to emulate Christ's own life.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Treadway

TEMPLE TALK

*Dr. Scott Rosenberg
Director, Lesotho Nutrition Initiative*

** indicates to stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Listen, God Is Calling"

Refrain

Leader

All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

1 2

Leader

All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader

All

Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

OPENING LITANY

from Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
say to the Lord:

**My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.**

For God will protect us from evil
and commands angels to guard us in all our ways.

**God rescues those who cling to God
and is present with us in trouble.**

God answers when we cry out
and reveals our salvation to us.

Let us worship God!

GATHERING SONGS

"Blessed Be Your Name"

(Verse 1 - All)

**Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.**

(Refrain - All)

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name.**

(Verse 4 - All)

**Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.**

(Refrain - All)

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the name of the Lord;**

**Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)

You give and take away, you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be your name."
**You give and take away, you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be your name."**

(Refrain - All)

**Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

"Cornerstone"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers / All)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.**

(Refrain - All)

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

(Refrain - All)

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.
He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.**

**** CONFESSION**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

**** FORGIVENESS**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, **you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have

come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
**you will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust."**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

They will call me, and I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

A reading from Romans.

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

** GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:1-10

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying 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 protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Swanson

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

**** PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Assisting Minister

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

** DIALOGUE

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

** LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

** INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

For those communing at home or in the pew:

COMMUNION — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

Communion Statement ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

** COMMUNION SONG

On Eagle's Wings



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

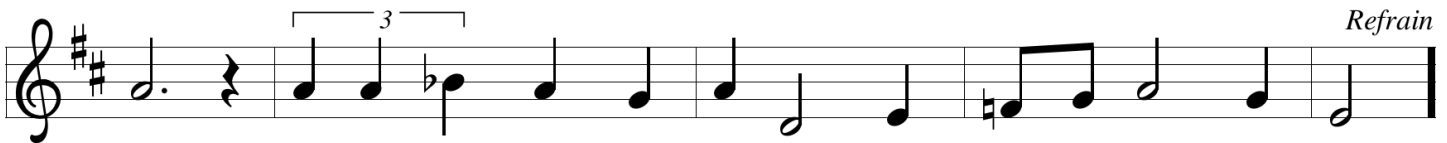


make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no

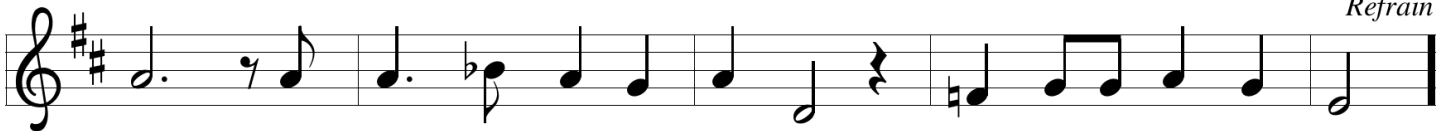


fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**** SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**** BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**** SENDING HYMN**

"Trading My Sorrows"

(Music Ministers/**All**)

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
**I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.**

(**All**)

**Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, amen.**

(Music Ministers)

I am pressed, but not crushed,
Persecuted, not abandoned,
Struck down, but not destroyed;
I am blessed beyond the curse,
For his promise will endure,
That his joy's gonna be my strength.
Though the sorrow may last for the night,
His joy comes with the morning.

(All)

**I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.**

**Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, amen.**

(Music Ministers)

I am pressed, but not crushed,
Persecuted, not abandoned, Struck down, but not destroyed;
I am blessed beyond the curse,
For his promise will endure,
That his joy's gonna be my strength.
Though the sorrow may last for the night,
His joy comes with the morning.

(All)

**I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.**

(Music Ministers/**All**)

La, la, la...

La, la, la...

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek serve and share Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society
Monday, March 10, 2025

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.