



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 2026

As We Gather

When God feels far away, faith is tested. This message explores Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and gives

voice to the experience many believers know well—trusting God's promises while sensing His distance. Christ stands where we fall, remaining faithful in silence and temptation, so His people may rest in God's mercy even when clarity is absent.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (LSB 423) *sts. 1–2*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 32:5

P I acknowledged my sin to You.

C **I did not cover up my iniquity.**

P I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

C **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,**

**to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

WORD

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, when Adam as parent of us all chose sin and its death, You did not condemn the people You had made but sent forth the promise of a new Adam, Jesus Christ, Your Son, to resist the lies of the evil one and earn a righteousness great enough to be given to all people in His name. Help us to abide in Christ and in His strength before the temptations of the devil; in the holy name of Jesus do we pray.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1–7, 14–15

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

The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 5:12–19

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—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 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.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 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.”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 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.”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken(LSB 439) *st. 2*

Sermon Series: Songs in the Night

Sermon Title: When God Feels Far Away

Psalm 6

Nicene Creed

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.

Prayer of the Church

P ... let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

Offering/Offertory

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 194-202 in the hymnal.

Preface

LSB 194

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 195

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

Distribution Hymns

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (LSB 451)
Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy (LSB 774)
Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray (LSB 623)
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (LSB 437)
Go to Dark Gethsemane (LSB 436)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✠ forgiven you.

C Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Salutation *LSB 201*

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

Benediction *LSB 202*

Closing Hymn

Christ, the Life of All the Living (LSB 420) *sts. 1, 7*