



# Risen Savior Lutheran Church

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You know what today is? I know what your thinking. Today is... 1st Sun. in Lent, the other specific time we sing A mighty Fortress, of the warfare, temptation that rages against us, against our Lord. You're thinking, 1st Sun. in Lent each year you hear of our Lord's temptation... No, you're not thinking that at all. Because most of you are "in love." Everybody's thinking, it's Valentine's day.

Our relationship with God. a matter of the heart- not the romantic valentine heart but the spiritual heart that makes you His. And in this relationship; there is warfare, battles, struggles against our flesh. No one show be surprised to see following the baptism of Jesus He is attacked, even attacked with Scripture; know well Christian -every false teaching uses Scripture; and you, following Him in your baptism; also throws you into a lifetime of attacks, battles, temptation. Be on your guard.

St. Valentine was a soldier, a soldiers of Christ, a pastor, 3<sup>rd</sup> century, when Christianity was illegal. The Roman emperor Claudius II ordered soldiers not to be married; he felt unmarried men were better soldiers, no distractions of wife or family. Now, we must be good citizens. But marriage is of God, of His gifts. Pr. Valentine would secretly perform marriages. It was discover, Valentine imprisoned for being a Christian, for the marriages. He confessed God's love unto men in Jesus. He may have been involved in a healing of the jailer's daughter; she converts to Christianity; the 1<sup>st</sup> Valentine was sent to her. He would soon be executed for confessing Christ, and closed his letter to her, *with love, from your Valentine.*

Valentine. A soldier in warfare. Do not minimize the spiritual warfare against you, your family. Warfare. Soldiers have to memorize a creed, a formula to live; operate by in training or in war. You may have heard some of the mottos, of the army, "This We'll Defend." The marines "Semper Fidelis"(Always Faithful)" or "semper fi." The navy code: "Honor, Courage, Commitment"

In all the Soldiers' Creeds, there's a part called the Warrior Ethos. Central point of the creed, a description of what the warrior is. Part of this ethos reads: "I will never leave a fallen comrade." Each Soldier vows to this. They pound it into their training. So when the chaos of war hits, they've something to cling to, give them direction. If your buddy is wounded, you never leave him behind. But in the very midst of chaos, you don't have control of the situation. The reality is the enemy may dictates your actions, reactions. Unintentionally comrades left on the battlefield; come to be prisoners of war.

Our Lord is cast out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit in order to do battle with the devil. That's what temptation is—it's battle. Part of the war against the devil,

the world, our sinful nature. Scripture is very clear on this—every Christian, you are engaged in a spiritual battle against sin. It's not His battle; He did not sin. But we, we're mortally wounded and dead in our trespasses upon this battlefield; yet He sought us out in order to call us comrade, fight for us and take us off the battlefield, rescue, and life. God in the flesh, overcome Satan's temptations that you overcome temptation in Him, in your flesh.

This is the nature of the battle in your weak and fallen flesh. Don't give in to temptation. Don't make it easy or be a willing accomplice. Fight. Yes, you get wounded, you struggle; most often against your own flesh— your self-serving wants, your selfishness, arrogantly thinking your right; over others; me first thinking. Fight, what you're called, as Christian, to do, but of yourself, it is a losing battle. Thus, repent of yourself. Your will-power, your self-determination, reliance on your own weapons will fail. You are not a great warrior, but the one who fights for you is.

I don't know the exact history of how this came to be, but Psalm 91, our Introit for today; the one that the devil quotes to Jesus in his temptation to throw himself off the temple, is called the Warrior's Psalm in the military.

You are not left on your own. And our heavenly Warrior will not be tempted by false glory. He is willing to suffer all, humiliation, assaults in order to save you. The reality is that no Soldier in the military can perfectly live up to the Soldiers' Creed. But there is only one person in the history of the world that has been in complete control of the war to rescue a fallen comrade. He is your fortress; He will deliver you from your losing battle with sin, your false pride, your broken promises, your evil thoughts, and even death.

We have a creed by which we live and work. It starts "I believe." The Christian ethos. You were baptized into it. It's who you are. It's who Your Father made you to be. You believe that you cannot by your own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ your Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called you by the Gospel, enlightened you with His gifts, sanctified (you are holy), keeps you in the true faith. Here He daily and richly forgives you all your sins.

The great hymn, For all the saints, we sing, **Oh may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old (like Valentine) and win with them the victor's crown of gold. And, when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, steals on their ear the distant triumph song. And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.** Not relying on yourself, His strength unto you through the battle, the struggles with His Word, promises, food for the warfare here.

**Sing my tongue of the glorious battle.** Bring it on. The temptations, the attacks, warfare, battles. Struggles. You are His. You are not left to fend for yourself in the battlefield. A glorious battle as your Lord has fought the war and prevailed. To you is given the victory, even amid the battles that rage on. **Tell how Christ the world's redeemer, as a victim won the day. Faithful cross, true sign of triumph.** Your sin and wrath you deserve on Him, **the weight that hung on**

**Thee.** Ever be repentant, ever be assured of His dearest, deepest love for you, shown upon a cross. Be on your guard. Fight. Don't give in. Repent of your failures.

More than the intensions of men in warfare, your Lord, perfectly fights for you, 'This we'll defend.' This we'll defend.' This we'll defend.' Perfectly, 'semper fi' unto you. His honor, courage, commitment, yours. **For us fights the Valiant One.** And in this warfare, your warfare, **He holds the field forever.**