

First Sunday in Lent



The first of the “heart issues” that we will be considering over the weeks of Lent will be the issue of control. There is no special attachment to the issue, other than the fact it’s what Satan led with when it came to the Temptation of Jesus.

There are lots of things that tempt each one of us. Perhaps having control over issues is just one such issue. Is there a way that we can live like Jesus without dealing with the problem

rearing its head like Satan tried to do with Jesus?

Realize that Satan tried to go back to his old tricks. The temptations were relatively simple. Jesus could trade following the Kingdom God called Him to take care of by trading stones for bread, taking control of the situation and getting some food. After all it was forty days out in the wilderness after all! He did not.

Satan tempts Jesus by seeing who was in control of the personal safety issue. Could Jesus take control of the situation and do the dictating to God as to what and when things needed to take place? Or would there be another way? Jesus was presented with options that would have taken control. He did not.

Finally, Satan seeks to give Jesus all the political power in the world. Any kingdom would be yours, Jesus, if only you would follow my advice and.... We can fill in the blanks. We have fallen for those deceptive statements dozens of times. Perhaps we can take the time to find new ways to resist the power of Satan in our lives. We fall victim to these temptations, Jesus did not.

What if we were to give up on our quest of being in control of the situations we face? What if we just let the Lord Jesus lead us and we simply followed? What if we sought to follow the example Jesus followed. All that really mattered was seeking and then doing the will of the Father. Jesus sets the example. Perhaps for the season of Lent, we can learn a new habit. Give up the deep seated need to be in control of our lives, and give it back to God!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music
Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

As we observe this Lenten season, may the message of the Gospel accounts of the work of Jesus Christ guide us and allow the revelation of the Kingdom of God to speak to our hearts and motivate a renewed sense of purpose even today. May the feelings in our hearts be matched with the actions of our hands, our feet, even our words. For the times we have neglected to do this, or avoided doing this, we know we need to offer our confession to Almighty God:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, **Amen**

HYMN 392 How Firm a Foundation 1,3,5

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2:1-17; 3:1-7

New Living Translation (NLT)

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 5: 12-21

New Living Translation (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

New Living Translation (NLT)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do 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, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.' " Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.' "

Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON "Control?"

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 417 My Faith Looks Up to Thee 1,2,4

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

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 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 465 Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak 1,2,4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Please give those requests to Pastor at the beginning portion of the service so they can be included in our prayers during worship today.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO BE WITH US THIS LENTEN SEASON! Traditionally a season of preparation and reflection, we hope to have a new look on the traditions of Lent as we celebrate the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross. **"GIVE IT UP!"** will be the guiding theme as we examine the various things people have given up in observance of the Lenten season, but with more attention as to what Jesus would have us do. It might be the best time to bring someone with you and form a new church relationship together! Next Sunday we will look at our **EXPECTATIONS.**

THE OSLC CHURCH COUNCIL will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday May 7th at 3:00 pm.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study: Times as announced

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