

# Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

## First Sunday in Lent

**TODAY'S FOCUS: TEMPTATION.** Jesus resisted the devil and Scripture tells us the devil went away, but would also wait “until an opportune time.” Should that make us more wary?

**PRELUDE** — Anneke Toomey

**INTROIT** — Scott Anderson and Melissa Westover

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** — Lin

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** — Lin

**\*OPENING HYMN**

UMH # 110

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill, God’s truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** — Suzanne Gallagher

One: On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

**Many: God, rescue us in the wilderness!**

One: Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

**Many: God, rescue us within the wilderness!**

One: Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

**Many: God, rescue us through the wilderness!**

One: Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.*

**OPENING PRAYER** — Lin

**HYMN**

TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

**CHILDREN'S STORY** — Sharon Goldade

**SPECIAL MUSIC** — Praise Band

"Wavin' At the Gate"

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 4:1-13 — Suzanne Gallagher

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup>Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup>and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**MESSAGE**

“An Opportune Time”

Rev. Lin Cheek

**RESPONSIVE HYMN**

TFWS #2113 “Lamb of God”

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side,  
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God

**REFRAIN:** O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in his precious blood — my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2. Your gift of love, they crucified, they laughed and scorned him as he died,  
The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lam of God. **REFRAIN**

3. I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side,  
To be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. **REFRAIN**

**OFFERTORY** — Scott Anderson & Melissa Westover

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Suzanne Gallagher

**ALL:** Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER** — Lin

**All:** 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. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

TFWS #2074 “Shout to the Lord” (sing through twice)

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength.  
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

**REFRAIN:** Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

**\*BENEDICTION** — Lin

**POSTLUDE** — Anneke Toomey

Prelude/Postlude — Anneke  
Offertory—Scott and Melissa  
Organ — Betsy  
Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher

Accomp.— Anneke and Betsy  
Song Leader— Shelly                      Special Music — Praise Band  
Violin — Rae Ann  
Children's Message— Sharon Goldade