

Church of the Divine Love

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 9, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence Alleluias are omitted during Lent

A Morning Prayer – on insert

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation for Lent page 361

The Decalogue page 350

The Confession page 353

THE WORD OF GOD

Kyrie page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second Lesson: **Romans 10:8b-13**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Luke 4:1-13**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

Hymn during Consecration (on insert)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #

Sermon Sunday March 9, 2025

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91: 1-2,9-16; Romans 10: 8b-13; Luke 4: 1-13.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Temptation has a bad reputation. We are told to avoid and guard against it; we pray not to be led into temptation. Yet today we read about Jesus being tempted by the devil—taunted to make bread from stones, jump off the temple pinnacle, and worship Satan. Two of these invitations to sin begin with the phrase, "If you are the Son of God...." Maybe that's the tempter issuing a fourth temptation, and this may be at the core of every temptation Jesus and we will ever face—the temptation to doubt that we are God's children.

The future is always coming to us in ways we cannot foresee or plan for. And it always comes with promise and risk. I am not talking about promise as a simple and predictable process by which an intention becomes a reality, but something that is completely open ended, something that holds endless possibilities. It's the kind of thing that depends on hope and faith more than it does the passage of time or the completion of an action. The promise promises that something is coming. What that is, we don't know. That's what makes life so wild. Every promise of life, every promise we make, every promise made to us, is accompanied by the risk that it might not be fulfilled or that it won't be fulfilled in the way we want or expect. But if the promise had no risk, it would have no value. Promise and risk are two sides of life. And isn't that the wilderness story of today's gospel **(Luke 4:1-13)**?

The way Luke tells it one minute Jesus is the Beloved Son, the one with whom God is well pleased. He leaves his baptismal waters full of the Holy Spirit. The next minute he is in the wilderness empty and famished. He's been tempted by the devil for forty days. "Turn these stones into bread." "Worship me and all this will be yours." "Jump and let God catch you if you really are God's son." "The promise in Jesus' baptism and the risk in the wilderness are not two separate stories. We might read them that way but that's not how we live them. Every promise carries risk and every risk carries promise. The promise and risk of life come to us asking for a response. Jesus had decisions to make. And so do we. We make decisions every day of our life; decisions and choices about what to do, who we want to be, how we want to live. We sometimes call them temptations. We feel torn and pulled between the promise and the risk. Temptations hold before us the illusion of promise without risk. But that's not the way the wilderness works, and Jesus knows that.

The wilderness is full of promise and the wilderness is full of risk, for Jesus and for us. You don't get one without the other. And it's always about more than whether we say yes or no. Think about the decisions before you today, the ones that carry consequences, the ones over which you fret and with which you struggle. What are they? What is it you are really seeking? My guess is that regardless of what the decision is about what we really want, what we are really after, is life; the chance for more life, the possibility of a new life, the opportunity to be reborn when all has been lost, for ourselves or for another. With each decision we're betting that the future will be better, not because it necessarily is, but because it might be. And that might, the possibility of a better future, of more life, is what gives us the strength, the faith, the hope, to risk a decision and remain open to the future, even when we don't know how it will turn out. And more often than not we don't. We don't know how it will turn out.

Have you ever looked back on your life and wished you had done things differently, made a different decision, taken a different path, chosen something else? Yeah, we all have. We've all been left wondering what life would be like now if we had gone a different direction. Where would we be now? How would our life be different? What did we miss out on? By the same token I suspect each of us can look back at choices and decisions we made and, if we had the chance, we'd do it all again, in the same way. They were absolutely the right thing for us. We wouldn't trade what that has given for anything and we

wouldn't want to imagine our life otherwise. It would be easy to look at those two situations and label one as failure and the other as a success, one in which we made the wrong decision and one in which we made the right decision. I think that's often how we live and view life. And I think that's how we often tend to hear today's gospel (**Luke 4:1-13**). Jesus made the right decisions and we should too. We turn the gospel into an imperative rather than an opening to life.

I am all for making good and thoughtful decisions, but what if it's more than that? What if the desire for more life is what underlies both those situations I described? What if this isn't so much about whether we get it right or wrong but whether we remain open to the coming future? That's what's happening with Jesus in the wilderness. It's not a question of whether he will prove himself, whether he will make the right decision, but whether he will stay open to his future. And that's true for us as well. I think that's what Lent about. Lent is about learning to stay open to life, to the coming future. The things we do or give up for Lent are not to gain God's approval or to improve ourselves but to help keep us open to the future, to the life that is coming.

With each temptation we learn a little more about ourselves. That is important information. It is diagnostic. All of this offers an opportunity for a new life and a new way of being as beloved children of God. Treatment and healing can only ever happen after the diagnosis has been made. There is no salvation without temptation. You could say we are tempted into salvation. Lent is intended to be a time of self-reflection and examination; looking at who we are becoming, how we are living, where our life is headed. But as long as I make my temptations about some other thing or person I never face or deal with myself. I suspect that's how we often treat these forty days. That's the wilderness struggle, the struggle of life, the struggle to remain open. It's so easy and tempting to close ourselves to the future. We do that in so many ways; fear, anger, hurt, guilt, disappointment, selfishness. What parts of your life have you closed to the future? What would it take to reopen them? That's the Lenten work before us, to continually remain open to life, to our future.

That just might be the start a holy Lent. It would be Lent in which our eyes were opened to the truth about ourselves, who we are, and what we do. It would be a Lent in which, despite things done and left undone, we would rediscover and maybe hear for the first time that we too are God's beloved children with whom he is pleased. Maybe it would be a Lent in which we could let go of judgments and score keeping. Maybe it would be a Lent that would lead us to new life, a fuller life, a life in which we discover that we are God's glory. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

1 LENT

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
2 LENT	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
	1:00 PM	BROWNIE TROOP

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH – BISHOPS VISITATION

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Deb Giordano
Coffee Hour	Erika Febres	Janet Croft

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.

John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Dorothy	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Joseph	Annie
Jerry & Family	Shannon & Family	Donna A.
Christopher	Oitice Family	Kristen

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

The departed: Jane Alva Quallo

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email

Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father, I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
And third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen

