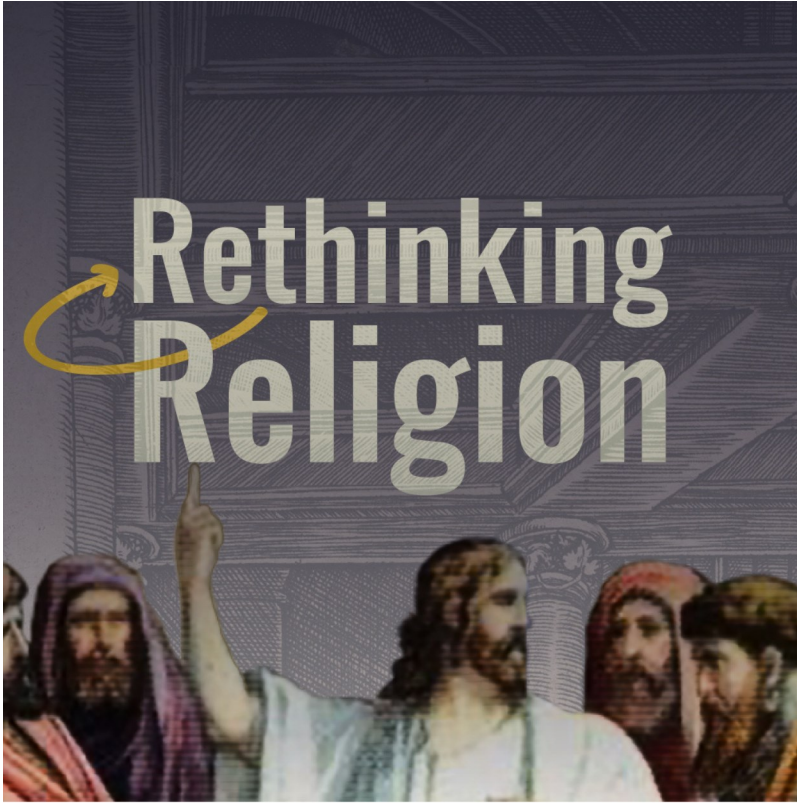


First Sunday in Lent

February 17-18, 2024



Trials, Tests, and Temptation



Salem Lutheran

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



First Sunday in Lent

*Rethinking Religion—
Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Father in heaven, help us to recognize the plots and schemes of Satan so that we might always be ready to defend ourselves with your Holy Word. Silence our doubts and fears and hear our praise for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: "If God loves us, why doesn't he remove all the trials and tests and temptations that we face?" That question demonstrates the religious assumption that those things are bad. They aren't. In the hands of a loving God, they are tools by which he refines our faith. God uses trials, tests, and even Satan's temptations for our good. These things are not exceptions to God's love. They are examples of it! God allowed his beloved Son Jesus to face trials and temptations and through them brought love to all sinners for our eternal good.

WORSHIP SERIES: Everyone makes assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone makes assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Do we know the truth about our faith well enough to answer the questions of those who don't understand Christianity? In this year's Lenten season we turn to Jesus to see what Christian faith is truly all about. We let him replace our own assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Madison Boerner

FELLOWSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Sunday morning, Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the Kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK: Worship theme: Rethinking suffering under the cross
Bible Readings: Job 1:13-22, Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:31-38
Hymns: 694, 817, 844, 867

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



Hymn: Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

CW 404



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing in your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es with the broad and
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord,
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, grant that in your



wounds I find, ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing pains of
sin - ful mind, let me think a - bout your pas - sion, and new
eas - y road, with se - duc - tive, sin - ful vic - es, let me
is made whole; when I'm weak, your cross re - vives me, grant - ing
death I trust, know - ing death has lost its pow - er since you



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
weigh the aw - ful load you were will - ing to en - dure.
new life to my soul. Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny



tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, show the per - il,
let me then be on my guard, say - ing, "Christ for
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure, mas - ter - ing each
ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; for your all - a -
ev - er help and com - fort me; when I die be



and from sin - ning keep me ere its first be - gin - ning.
me was wound - ed," that the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
wild temp - ta - tion, calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
ton - ing pas - sion has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
my pro - tec - tion, light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Please remain seated.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan’s power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font at the Saturday service. On Sunday the service continues with the prayer of the day on page 6.

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: *“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*

The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:

M: Harley Tyler Koester, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart ✝ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

(Saturday) Exhortation to Parents & Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Harley and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Harley as your own child and made her a member of Christ’s body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

God gives Abraham a test which will demonstrate who Abraham loves and trusts most.

¹Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

²Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

³Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹²“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: *I Lift My Soul to You*

Psalm 25B



1 I lift my soul to you, LORD, I trust, O God, in you.
2 Your cov - e - nant and mer - cy are with me all my days



Send forth your truth to guide me, and teach me what to do.
to com - fort and to bless me, to keep me in your ways.



Re - mem - ber your great mer - cy, your ev - er - last - ing love;
When - ev - er I look up - ward, I find you wait - ing there,



for - give me, God, my Sav - ior, my guilt and sin re - move.
to bear me and to keep me all safe be - neath your care.

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-39

The proof of God's love is not that he removes all our trouble, but that he gave us his Son. If he was willing to do that great thing, we know that nothing will separate us from God's love.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

Sometimes we fail to stand firm in trial or temptation. But by grace the kingdom of God is still ours because Jesus, as our substitute, perfectly overcame all of Satan's temptations.

¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. ¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 864 sts. 1-4



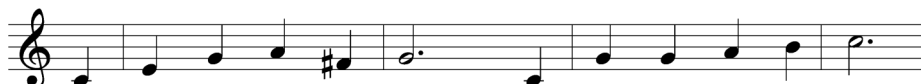
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y



shield and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry
 loss ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant
 to de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no
 thanks have for it; he's by our side up - on the



need that has us now o'er - tak - en.
 one whom God him - self e - lect - ed.
 ill; they shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 plain with his good gifts and Spir - it.



The an - cient e - vil foe now means to work us woe;
 You ask who this may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he,
 The prince of dark - ness still may scowl fierce as he will,
 And should they take our life, goods, hon - or, child, and wife,



deep guile and aw - ful might are his dread arms in
 the Lord of hosts his name, from age to age the
 his rag - ing harms us none. He's judged; the deed is
 though all of these be gone, our vic - to - ry is



fight; on earth is not his e - qual.
 same; he holds the field for - ev - er.
 done; one lit - tle word can fell him.
 won; the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Sermon

Based on Genesis 22:1-8

"Put your trust in the Lord who Provides"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

From there 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.**

Be seated.

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: I Run to Christ

CW 833



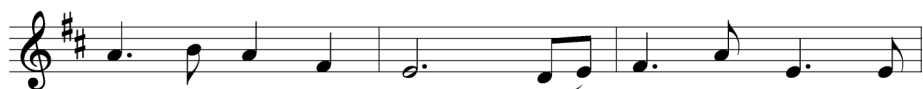
1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref-uge
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re-
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es-



sure. "Be-lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
freshed. "Come un-to me," he calls thro' strife; fa-tigue gives
cape. "De-liv-er me," I cry to him; temp-ta-tion



wounds se-cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and



find a-bun-dant peace. "I too had tears," he
find a might-y arm. "The dev-il flees," the
find my one de-fense. "I bore God's wrath," he



gent-ly speaks; thus joy and sor-row meet.
Scrip-tures tell; he roars but can-not harm.
pleads my case—my ad-vo-cate and friend.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection Video

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

For our guests

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

