

About the First Sunday in Lent  
Theme: The Power of God's Word  
- *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* -

**R**eciting the magnificent works of the LORD, Israel was directed to bring before Him the firstfruits of all their produce, flowing abundantly from His merciful hand. (Deuteronomy) As He delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, so He has delivered His church from bondage to sin, death, and hell. We too praise His mercy with our firstfruits giving. He has placed His life-giving Word on human mouths for us to hear and believe. (Romans) With the heart we believe and with our mouths we confess His saving love. So it is that the Lord Jesus met every one of the devil's onslaughts with the sure and certain Word of His God and Father. (Luke) Unable to master Him, the devil retreated from Him – just as He flees all who believe and are baptized into Christ the mighty victor over sin, death, and hell.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Deuteronomy 26:1-11 For what reason are Israelites urged to present offerings of the firstfruits of their produce? What had the LORD done for them as a people? What has the LORD done for you? What do you return to Him?
- Monday** Romans 10:8b-13 How has God placed His Word within earshot? What confession does the church make with her mouth? What does the church believe in her heart? How is such faith created and nurtured? Where do we hear the living Word of God? Why therefore do we worship? What does this mean?
- Tuesday** Luke 4:1-13 What happened to Jesus in the desert? List each of the devil's temptations and the corresponding reply of Jesus: what is common to each reply? What can we learn from Jesus about the Word of God? Why did the devil retreat from Jesus? What does this mean for our rescue from sin, death, and devil?
- Wednesday** Psalm 91 Where may the faithful find rest? How? What sources terrorized Israel? What makes you afraid? How does the LORD provide protection for His people? How therefore may you calm your fears? List the promises of the LORD in the last three verses; how do these promises apply to your personal turmoil and fear right now? What does this mean?
- Thursday** Jeremiah 26:8-15 Why were the people upset with Jeremiah? To whom did they take their complaint? What sentence did they prescribe? How did Jeremiah react? How is this situation Jesus-like? What resulted from Jeremiah's testimony? What resulted from Jesus' testimony? What does this mean?
- Friday** Philippians 3:17-4:1 Where did St. Paul get the pattern of living he exemplified to the Philippians? How is it that some who claim to follow Christ are actually His enemies? What is their "god?" Where is your citizenship? What does this mean? What glorious end outcome awaits all the faithful? How does this connect with how we live right now? What things need changing in your life now? How is this done?
- Saturday** Luke 13:31-35 Why was Jesus determined to go to Jerusalem? How frequently had Jesus attempted to gather Jerusalem together? When? How does this statement clearly show His divinity? When was Jesus welcomed as "He who comes in the name of the Lord?" When do we welcome Him in the same way in the midst of the assembled congregation? When will we welcome Him face to face? What does this mean?