

**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Saturday, February 17, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, February 18, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

## Entrance Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LSB 656

- 1      A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;  
    Deep guile and great might  
    Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.
- 2      With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,  
    Of Sabaoth Lord,  
    And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.
- 3      Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
    He can harm us none.  
    He's judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him.
- 4      The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,  
    Though these all be gone,  
    Our vict'ry has been won;  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Pastor:      In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Amen.**

Pastor:      It was in this triune name of God that we were baptized—

**People:**      **the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember our Baptism.  
People: **We remember we were washed and forgiven.**

Pastor: We remember we were made members of God's family.  
People: **We remember we were united with Jesus.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though we are baptized and united with Jesus, we often act as if we were separated from Jesus. There are times when we fall prey to Satan and his temptations. There are times when sin reigns within us. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in repentance, asking for forgiveness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,  
People: **we have ignored Your help in resisting Satan and His temptations. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Yet our entire lives are lives of repentance. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and lead us in righteousness, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to endure temptation, suffering, and death for us and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven. We are baptized into Christ.**

## Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, You endured the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. Be present with us on our Lenten journey toward the cross and empty tomb, always mindful of our identity as those baptized in Your name, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,  
My Rock in Whom I trust."

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under His Wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day,  
Though thousands fall about you,  
Near you it shall not come.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

For to His angels He's given a command,  
To guard you in all of your ways,  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

## Old Testament Reading

## Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>2</sup> Then 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.”

<sup>3</sup> Early 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. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He 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.”

<sup>6</sup> Abraham 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, <sup>7</sup> Isaac 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?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup> When 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. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>12</sup> “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.”

<sup>13</sup> Abraham 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. <sup>14</sup> So

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.”

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I 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, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle Reading

## James 1:12-18

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

<sup>16</sup> Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

## Mark 1:9-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

## **Sermon Hymn Mark How The Lamb of God's Self Offering LSB 600**

- 1 Mark how the Lamb of God's self-off'ring  
Our human sinfulness takes on  
In the birth-waters of the Jordan  
As Jesus is baptized by John.  
Hear how the voice from heaven thunders,  
"Lo, this is My beloved Son."  
See how in dove-like form the Spirit  
Descends on God's Anointed One.

- 2 From this assurance of God's favor  
Jesus goes to the wilderness,  
There to endure a time of testing  
That readied Him to teach and bless.  
So we, by water and the Spirit  
Baptized into Christ's ministry,  
Are often led to paths of service  
Through mazes of adversity.
- 3 Grant us, O God, the strength and courage  
To live the faith our lips declare;  
Bless us in our baptismal calling;  
Christ's royal priesthood help us share.  
Turn us from ev'ry false allegiance,  
That we may trust in Christ alone:  
Raise up in us a chosen people  
Transformed by love to be Your own.

**Sermon      Staring Down the Devil      Mark 1:9-15**

## **Offering**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**

Pastor: Lord God, You are our sword and shield against the attacks of Satan. As we journey through this Lenten season, protect us from the assaults of the devil, remind us of our Baptism, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**



Pastor: Lord God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Thank You for the many blessings You have poured into our lives. Help us to accept what You give and ask for what we need. Protect us from a life of perpetual dissatisfaction and lead us toward a life of gratitude. For a mighty fortress is our God,

**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**

Pastor: Lord God, You sent Jesus into our world to bear our temptations and share in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially . . .*]. Point them to the hope of resurrection and eternal life with You. For a mighty fortress is our God,

**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**

Pastor: Lord God, we pray for all those who are not yet baptized into Christ, that the Spirit would lead them toward the promises of Baptism and the family of the church. For a mighty fortress is our God,

**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**

Pastor: Lord God, we pray for our nation and its leaders. For President Biden and Vice President Harris and their staffs, for Congress and all lawmakers, for the Supreme Court and all judges. We pray that You, Lord, would make Your ways and paths known to them, that You would lead them in the truth and teach them. For a mighty fortress is our God,

**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**

Pastor: Lord God, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your will. For a mighty fortress is our God,

**People: a trusty shield and weapon.**

Pastor: Lord God, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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 and ever. Amen**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

**P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **Pax Domini**

*pg 197*

**P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*pg 198*

**C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

## **Distribution Hymn      A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth      LSB 438**

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, The guilt of sinners bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing;  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, To slaughter led with out complaint,  
That spotless life to offer, He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
The mockery, and yet replies, "All this I gladly suffer."

This Lamb in Christ, the soul's great friend, The Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Whom God the Father chose to send To gain for us His favor.  
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said, "And free My children from their dead  
Of guilt and condemnation. O Love, how stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Your passion they will share The fruit of Your salvation."

"Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I'll bear what You command Me.  
My will conforms to Your decree, I'll do what You have asked Me."  
O wondrous Love, what have You done! The Father offers up His Son,  
Desiring our salvation. O Love, how strong You are to save!  
You lay the One into the grave Who built the earth's foundation.

Lord, when Your glory I shall see And taste Your kingdom's pleasure.  
Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before Your throne. Your righteousness shall be my crown;  
With these I need to hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought,  
As Your own bride shall we be brought To stand in joy beside You.

## **Post-Communion Collect**

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through  
this Meal. Help us to resist temptation by daily reminding us of our  
identity as Your baptized children; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **Benediction**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

- 1      Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
         There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
         Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
         As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. **Refrain**
- ref**      Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
         Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
         All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
         Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
- 2      Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
         Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
         Join with all nature in manifold witness  
         To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**
- 3      Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
         Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
         Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
         Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**