

Service of Daily Prayer
First Sunday in Lent
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN
February 21, 2021

As We Gather

Today we hear of God testing Abraham and of Satan tempting Jesus. James reminds us that God tempts no one. So, how can we know whether God is testing us or Satan is tempting us? James reminds us that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). As we go through life, striving to live out our calling as God’s people, we will hit obstacles and face tests to our faith and to how we live that faith. God can work through these tests to draw us closer to Him. On the other hand, Satan wants to lure and entice us away from the path God would have us walk.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Versicles

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.
My mouth is filled with Your praise,
and with Your glory all the day.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare Your praise.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Reading

Genesis 22:1–18
God tested Abraham.

Reading

James 1:12–18
The path temptation treads

Reading

Mark 1:9–15
Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.

- P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles' Creed

- C** 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.

Koine Worship Song - A Mighty Fortress

Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** 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.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

In the morning

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be

preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stewardship Sentence

Mark 1:13 – *“And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.”* God the Father cares for Jesus even in the midst of his temptation in the wilds. God cares for us in every situation as well. Jesus realized this and always acted from the basis of trust in God the Father's provision. This is likewise the basis for our life lived in Christ: God cares for us, so we need not act out of fear or greed.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - February 28, 2021

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Romans 5:1–11; Mark 8:27–38

By the Cross of Our Lord Jesus, We Inherit Life Everlasting with God

In His covenant with Abraham, the Lord promised to be with him, to bless him and to make him *“the father of a multitude of nations.”* It is *“an everlasting covenant”* in Christ Jesus, the seed of Abraham who is blameless before God Almighty. All who believe in this Lord Jesus are the offspring of Abraham and are blessed *“throughout their generations”* (**Gen. 17:1–7**), because the Christ has suffered many things. He was rejected and killed, and after three days He rose again (**Mark 8:31**). To comprehend this theology of the cross, we must set our minds *“on the things of God,”* and not *“on the things of man”* (**Mark 8:33**). *“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (**Rom. 5:8**). Therefore, having been *“reconciled to God by the death of his Son,”* much more *“shall we be saved by his life”* (**Rom. 5:10**). Baptized into His cross and resurrection, *“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”* and by faith we rejoice in the hope of His glory (**Rom. 5:1–2**).

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