



*“Tempted or Tested?”*

*Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 8:00 am*

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (Contemporary Service)

### 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.

### WE WELCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Epiphany Lutheran Church offers many resources and programs to help you and your children grow in your faith relationship with Jesus Christ. Our nursery has staffed personnel every Sunday from 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM. The nursery is not staffed on Saturday night, but still available for your use. Well children, ages infant to four (4) years, are welcome. ***There are new requirements to ensure the health and safety of our children posted on the doors.*** Each Sunday morning worship service has a special children’s message, and we offer Sunday school, except for holidays, for ages 3-adult at 9:30 am. If you need assistance, please ask an usher or elder to direct you to the bathrooms, nursery, or classrooms.

*Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk (\*).*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### THE WELCOME

Pastor Chris Matthis

### ELDER PRAYER

**\*OPENING MEDLEY**

*"Grace Like Rain"*

Todd Agnew

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see so clearly***

***Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me  
Hallelujah, and all my stains are washed away  
They're washed away***

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed***

***And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me  
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away***

***When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing Your praise  
Than when we first begun***

***And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me  
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away***

***And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me  
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away***

***And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away***

*"Grateful for the Cross"*

Dave Hunt

***God, you reign in glory  
With deep unending love  
God, the greatest story  
You gave your only son.***

***While we were so in need you sent a Saviour.  
While we were hopeless broken and lost.  
Jesus chose to shed his blood,  
To show the world his love.  
Lord forever find us grateful for the cross***

*God, you've shown us favor  
In the fullness of your Grace.  
God, there's no one greater  
Only you can save.*

*You have offered beautiful redemption  
While we were so unworthy of the cost.  
Jesus paid our penalty; he died to set us free  
Lord forever find us grateful for the cross*

*Thank you for the cross your wrath was satisfied.  
Thank you for the cross where sin was crucified.  
Your perfect sacrifice has made all things new,  
Jesus thank you, Jesus thank you*

*God, please help us follow  
And give us eyes to see  
God, wherever we go  
Be a lamp unto our feet*

*And we'll run the race that you have set before us  
And consider any gain we have but loss  
Compared with knowing Christ the giver of all life  
Lord forever find us grateful for the cross  
Lord Forever find us grateful for the cross*

## **+ PREPARATION +**

### **\*INVOCATION**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

### **\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:** **who made heaven and earth.**

**Pastor:** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People:** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**Pastor:** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take

refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

## + WORD +

### OLD TESTAMENT

*Genesis 22:1-18*

*(The sacrifice of Isaac)*

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

*Psalm 25:1-10*

Pastor: To You, O LORD,

**People: I lift up my soul.**

Pastor: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

**People: let not my enemies exult over me.**

Pastor: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

**People: they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;

**People: teach me Your paths.**

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation;

**People: for You I wait all the day long.**

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,

**People: for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

Pastor: Good and upright is the LORD;

**People: therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

Pastor: He leads the humble in what is right,

**People: and teaches the humble His way.**

Pastor: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

**People: for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

## **EPISTLE**

*James 1:12-18*

*(God tempts no one.)*

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love

him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 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. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:9-15*

*(Jesus' temptation in the wilderness)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Marcy Pore

**SERMON SONG**

*"Blessed Be Your Name"*

Matt and Beth Redman

*Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name*

*Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name*

*Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in  
Lord still I will say*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name*

*Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name*

*Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name*

*Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in  
Lord still I will say*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name*

*You give and take away  
You give and take away*

***My heart will choose to say  
Lord blessed be Your name***

***Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in  
Lord still I'm gonna say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name***

## **SERMON**

Pastor Chris Matthis

## **\*CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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.**

## **OFFERING**

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.epiphanylc.org](http://www.epiphanylc.org) and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.*



*If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.*

**[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **\*THE 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.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*SENDING SONG**

*"Our God"*

*Water You turned into wine  
Open the eyes of the blind  
There's no one like You  
None like You*

*Into the darkness You shine  
Out of the ashes we rise  
There's No one like you  
None like you*

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God*

*Into the darkness you shine  
Out of the ashes we Rise  
No one like you  
None like you*

***Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God***

***Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God***

***And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?  
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?  
And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?  
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?  
Then what can stand against?***

***Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God***

***Our God is greater, our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, awesome in power  
Our God, Our God***

***And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?  
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?  
And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?  
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?  
Then what can stand against?  
Then what can stand against?***

**Leader:** Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**People:** Thanks be to God!

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## SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEKEND

(February 20-21, 2021)

**Readings:** *(Old Testament)* Genesis 22:1-18    *(Psalm)* Psalm 25:1-10  
*(Epistle)* James 1:12-18    *(Holy Gospel)* Mark 1:9-15

	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>
<b>Preacher</b>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
<b>Elders</b>	<i>Mitch Arndt</i>	<i>Joel Crosswhite</i>	<i>Michael Huntley</i>
<b>Accompanist</b>	<i>Nathan Eickmann</i>	<i>Alexander Tran</i>	<i>Praise Team</i>
<b>Sound System</b>		<i>Mike Kozimko</i>	<i>Tim Schneider</i>
<b>Video</b>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>		<i>Tim Schneider</i>
<b>Acolyte</b>		<i>Thomas Sprankle</i>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<i>Christina Arndt</i>		
<b>Children's Message</b>	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>Noye Balmer</i>	<i>Marcy Pore</i>
<b>Nursery</b>		<i>Ev Dawson</i>	<i>Ev Dawson</i>
<b>Greeters</b>			
<b>Lectors</b>	<i>Tim Hutchison</i>	<i>Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>Dick Lichtenheld</i>
<b>Snacks</b>	<b><i>Suspended</i></b>	<b><i>Suspended</i></b>	<b><i>Suspended</i></b>
<b>Ushers</b>			



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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

*"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"*