

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LENT 1 - A RESILIENT FAITH (8:00)
LOGOS WORSHIP (10:30)
Reverend John R. Hanson
Sunday, March 6, 2022, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Julie Hanson

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate Lent, it is tempting to preach hellfire and brimstone and to focus on all the evil in the world. However, we have much to celebrate. Lent offers us an invitation of an abundant life found in the practice of spiritual disciplines and in the freedom of taking responsibility for the light and darkness in our world. We are assured of God's protective care. God teaches us to confront the darkness within and around us by becoming people who shine the light of Christ in our daily witness.

THEME AND VERSE

We are called to follow Jesus wherever he leads us, to the place where God makes his covenant with us. We are called to tell all people the good news, to bring God's hope to all people, to trust the God who gives us life. Each one of us is called to take up our cross and trust Jesus who bears it with us, and to walk with God every day.
Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love. Joel 2:12-13

HYMN

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

Blue # 781

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

***No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus is tempted by the devil in the wilderness. He is challenged to turn stones into food, to jump from the top of the temple, and to gain all the world's wealth and glory by bowing to the tempter. But the Son of God resists, using God's word as his guide.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship

me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together to worship,

in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. He will have mercy and abundantly pardon us for our sins.

Gracious God, the magnitude of our sins is far outreached by the magnitude of your mercies. We, your grateful people, turn to you in trust, asking through Christ Jesus that our sins may be forgiven, and our selfish ways overruled by your abundant grace. This we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen!

The Scripture says: "No one who believes in God shall be put to shame. For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, I assure all who repent of their sins that your guilt is annulled, and your freedom is granted.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON "How Do I Love You?"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God most beautiful, God most holy, God most loving, we ask for your blessing as we "live" Lent. Let us see beyond the deceptions which burden us in our daily living and rediscover your spiritual truth. May we worship you with integrity. We ask that you

would bring our vulnerability into focus in our witness of your wonder and joy. This we ask in the name of Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Amen!

READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-10, 11

Instructions to bring the first produce as a Thank Offering to God and a recognition of God's care, provision, and liberation of God's people in the past and the present.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien,

few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me."

¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

READING: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the early Christians of the message of faith in Christ which ensures that we will never be disgraced, because all who call on his name are saved.

^{8b}"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth

and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

HYMN

"The Lord Is My Light"

Burgundy # 61

The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is my light and my salvation,
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

***Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life, whom shall I fear?***

In the time of trouble, he shall hide me; O, in the time of trouble, he shall hide me;
In the time of trouble, he shall hide me; whom shall I fear?

Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, oh, wait on the Lord and be of good courage,
Wait on the Lord and be of good courage; he shall strengthen thine heart.

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SERMON - *The wandering of Jesus in the desert was his wandering. The death and resurrection of Jesus was his death and resurrection. The work for our salvation was his. Lent is our time to recall God who rescues, graces, loves, and restores. We will fail to resist temptation. Jesus shares his victory with us in order that we may be restored.*

HYMN

“Thy Word Is a Lamp”

Burgundy # 132

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me,
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER FOR COMMUNION

Thank you, God, for your redeeming love! Your generosity can be seen in all creation. Above all earthly power and authority, we are able to experience your meekness. Your goodness endures forever. Your tenderness and mercy sustain all of us. Your goodness endures forever. Earth and heaven are filled with your glory, and we are recipients of grace upon grace! Thanks be to God, your goodness endures forever. Amen!

BENEDICTION & SENDING

We were never promised that we would not be tempted nor thrown into turmoil, not stumble or fall, but that by grace we will be saved! Grace is a free gift of God. An ongoing gift for you and for me. We have a life to inherit; receive and live this life.

We receive and live this new life.

The quiet strength of Christ, the humble power of God, and the pervasive light of the Spirit is ours today and always.

Amen! We go in Christ's name!

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Worship, as an action, continues to change.
Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.
Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

What is interesting about the readings for this week is the focus. Rather than being on Jesus' temptation, is on God's care, protection and provision for God's people. When the story of the temptation is placed in that context, our focus shifts away from fear of failure or succumbing to evil. We can rely on God's resources that are at our disposal to keep us strong and faithful.

Perhaps the great temptation of this week's readings is to make it all about evil and its attack on us and our world. However, the lessons rightly call us to focus on God – God's care, God's Word, God's protection, God's provision – which means that we can rest assured that whatever we may face, "the best of all is 'God is with us.'"

There are issues in our readings today, issues of identity; issues of security; issues of power; issues of appetite and consumption. It is out of these issues – and the knowledge that it is only "under the shadow of God's wing" that we can hope to face them satisfactorily. Here, three Lenten disciplines emerge – fasting (to confront our consumption and appetites); giving of time, abilities and resources (to confront our love of power and pride); and prayer (to confront our self-dependence and security issues) are addressed.

As individuals, and as faith communities, embracing these practices of faithful living, not just in Lent, is the easiest way to confront the evil within and without our homes. As Mother Teresa famously said: "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

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