

First Sunday in Lent

02-22-2023

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

Celebrate (Introduction)

"Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead."

Opening Hymn: [ELW 527 – Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now](#)

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Hymn of Praise: [ELW 320 – The Glory of the Forty Days](#)

1st Reading: [Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7](#)

Psalmody: Psalm 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A Maskil.

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up^[a] as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, ^bthe rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*

⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

2nd Reading: [Romans 5:12-19](#)

The Gospel: [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Hymn: [ELW 335 – Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross](#)

The Message: ([Sermon Audio Link](#))

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially: Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Elshafei family, Alexis Erdman, Samantha Erdman, the Fleming family, Jeff Fultz, Mary Goehring, Samuel Edward Hawkins Jr., Angela Hayes, Mark Hughes, the Johnson family, Faith Jolly, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Charlotte Leer, the McNamara family, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Julie Obie, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: [ELW 676 – Lord, Speak To Us, That We May Speak](#)

Announcements

- **Wednesday** Lenten Series and Bread & Soup Dinners starting 6:00 pm

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291