

*Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield*

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The First Sunday in Lent ~February 18, 2024

*Color of the Day: Purple—used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.*

Opening Hymn ..... #809 – Great is Thy Faithfulness

Confession and Absolution ..... Page 151

*Service of the Word*

Introit ..... Page 152

*Ps. 91:9-13; antiphon: Ps. 91:15-16*

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;\*

I will rescue him and | honor him.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him\*

and show him my sal- | vation.

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—\*

the Most High, who is my | refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,\*

no plague come | near your tent.

For he will command his angels con- | cerning you\*

to guard you in | all your ways.

On their hands they will | bear you up,\*

lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the | adder;\*

the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;\*

I will rescue him and | honor him.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him\*

and show him my sal- | vation.

Kyrie ..... Page 152

Hymn of Praise (omitted during Lent)..... Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day ..... Page 156

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.

Old Testament Reading ..... Page 156

*Genesis 22:1–18*

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.” <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**Gradual** ..... Page 156

*Heb. 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the  
shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

**Epistle Reading** ..... Page 156

*James 1:12-18*

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup>Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**Choral Anthem**

**Lent Verse (Return to the Lord)** ..... Page 157

**Holy Gospel** ..... Page 157

*Mark 1:9-15*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** ..... #656 - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

**The Sermon** ..... **Testing ~ James 1:12-18**

*Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>*

**Introduction**

This morning \_\_\_\_\_.

**Temptations Come**

The person who remains \_\_\_\_\_.

Although God may allow \_\_\_\_\_.

We know that we are \_\_\_\_\_.

The progression of sinning \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Key in Times of Temptation**

First and foremost \_\_\_\_\_.

"Of his own will," \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus, the "word of truth," \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_.

**What Does This Mean?**

We recognize \_\_\_\_\_.

On the other hand \_\_\_\_\_.

In and of ourselves \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Old Testament lesson \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Gospel lesson \_\_\_\_\_.

The result is this \_\_\_\_\_.

Temptations do come \_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

**Creed** .....Page 158/159

**Prayer of the Church & Offering** ..... Page 159

*Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.*

**Offertory** .....Page 159

*Service of the Sacrament*

**Preface** ..... Page 160

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)** ..... Page 161

**Lord's Prayer and The Words of Our Lord** ..... Page 162

**Pax Domini & Agnus Dei** ..... Page 163

**Distribution** ..... Page 164

*Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.*

**Distribution Hymns** ..... #786 – Lord of All Good

#707 – Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

#798 - The God of Abraham Praise

(additional hymn(s) if needed: 548, 632)

**Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis)** ..... Page 165

**Post-Communion Collect and Benediction** ..... Page 166

**Closing Hymn** ..... #655 - Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word