

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

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.

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of

Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***Hymn**

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

ELW 325

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

pg 147

***Glory to God in the Highest**

pg 148

***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.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the
guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and
so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world
before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned
from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who
is a pattern of the one who was to come.

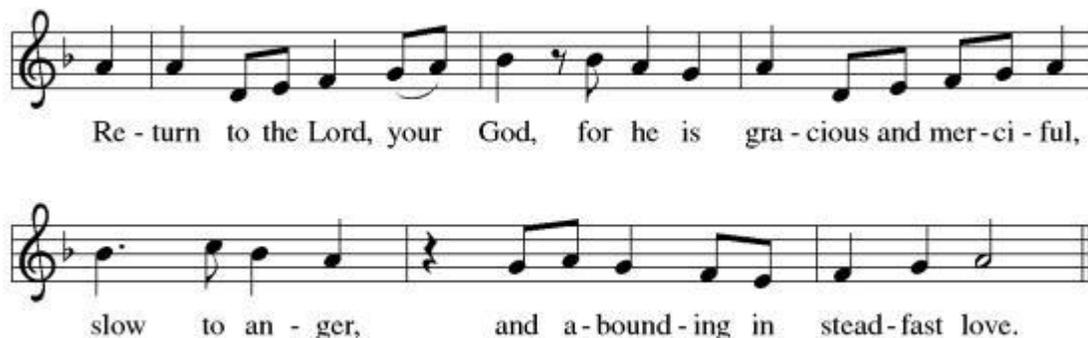
¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one
man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of
the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the
effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought
condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If,
because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely
will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in
life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Katie Bills

Sermon

Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

***Hymn**

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

ELW 808

***Apostles Creed**

pg 105

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,

your steadfast love embraces all creation.

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

***Lord’s Prayer**

***Blessing**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

***Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

ELW 504

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Assisting: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Viv Nore

Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Viv Nore, Karla Berg, Terry Hansen

Tech: Mark Oester