

Rethinking Religion

Lent 1	Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations
Lent 2	Rethinking Suffering under the Cross
Lent 3	Rethinking the Worth of Worship
Lent 4	Rethinking the Solution to Sin
Lent 5	Rethinking Devoted Commitment

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 ✕ 8:00 AND 10:15 AM

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

Rethinking Religion

In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turns the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it "Christianity." So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

Lent 1 Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations

"If God loves us, why doesn't he remove all the trials and tests and temptations that we face?" That question demonstrates the religious assumption that those things are bad. They aren't. In the hands of a loving God, they are tools by which he refines our faith. He uses tests as a way to compel us to be less self-reliant, and instead trust in his strength. He uses trials to teach us that this broken world is not our true home. God even takes Satan's temptations and uses them for our good.



Trials, tests, and temptations are not exceptions to God's love. That's a false assumption! These are examples of God's love. Proof is that God allowed his beloved Son Jesus to face trials and temptations, so that he might be our perfect savior and substitute.



Sharing of the Peace

Sharing of Peace is an ancient Christian custom, originally referred to as the Kiss of Peace. Paul wrote to the Romans and the Corinthians and the Thessalonians: "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, 1 Thess 5:26). There are constant references in the following centuries to Christians sharing a holy kiss during worship, either after the Lord's Prayer or just before communing together as a sign of unity in the presence of Jesus, as Ephesians 4:3 calls us to: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eventually the kiss became a handshake with the words, "peace be with you" in most of the Western Christian churches. We'll follow this lovely ancient custom and say, "peace be with you" to those seated around us and perhaps offer a handshake during Lent as a symbol of our reconciliation to each other in the peace of Jesus and as an expression of our love for one another.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.*
Hymns not printed in this service folder are found in the blue hymnals in each pew. 

Hymn | 833 I Run to Christ

Invocation

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for personal reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

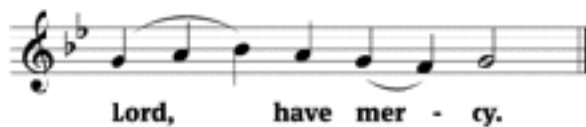
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



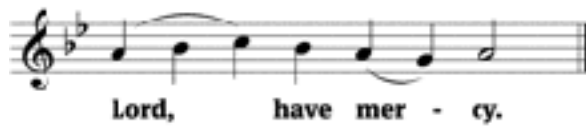
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Psalm Verse

Psalm 91:15

He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

The congregation sings:



Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

God tests Abraham's faith to strengthen his faith. This lesson is the basis of the sermon this morning.

¹Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

²Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

³Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son

Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹²"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91 *selected verses*

Keep me, keep me as the up-ple of your eye.

Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are written below the notes.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
For He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways;
They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



Second Reading

Romans 8:31-39

The proof of God's love is not that he removes all our trouble. The proof of God's love is that he gave us his Son. If he did that, nothing can separate us from God's love. We are loved. We are never alone.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand



The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

Christ begins his earthly ministry and his journey to the cross by a time of loneliness and struggle in the desert. He was victorious in the struggle, and He won it for us. With His victory credited to us, we go back into the desert to struggle against the foes of the devil, the world and our own flesh with Him as our strength and support and with the holy angels as our companions.

¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of

God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day | 871 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

Sermon Genesis 22:1-18 Yahweh Yireh

Please stand

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

Be seated.

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, in this life we face many temptations. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us without ever failing and has covered us in His righteousness, and bring us through the evils of this fallen world to dwell with You forever. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You placed the wood of the cross on the back of Your only begotten Son, that as the promised offspring of Abraham He might destroy the powers of evil that held us. Bless, we pray, His Church and all those called to preach and teach within her. Give them certainty that hell cannot prevail against them, and so embolden them in faith to trample every power of the enemy underfoot. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, preserve all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As Your Son overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, so also give us the victory through Christ and His Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Offering



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

Lord of all, bless our leaders, that we may be governed wisely and justly for the good of this present generation and those to come. Bless our marriages and families, heal broken relationships, strengthen healthy relationships, renew our love for each other with Your love for us and use us to encourage each other in faith and life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most High God, our refuge in every trouble, You have promised to hear when we call to You. Command Your angels to guard our brothers and sisters and all who suffer in our midst [*especially...*]. Keep them from every evil that can befall the body, mind or soul. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

special intercessions may be offered here

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.
 And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them up to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through the all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with repentant joy as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen.

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.

The Words of Our Lord Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Our Lord Jesus

(for more information on this practice we observe this Lent, see the inside cover of this bulletin)

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Extend to each other the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ as a sign of forgiveness and unity. "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." (1 John 4:7)

The congregation extends the peace of Christ by turning to each other, shaking hands, and saying:

Peace be with you.

Jesus, Lamb of God



sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

Hymn | 525 The Lamb

Hymn | 863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Your ✝ sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

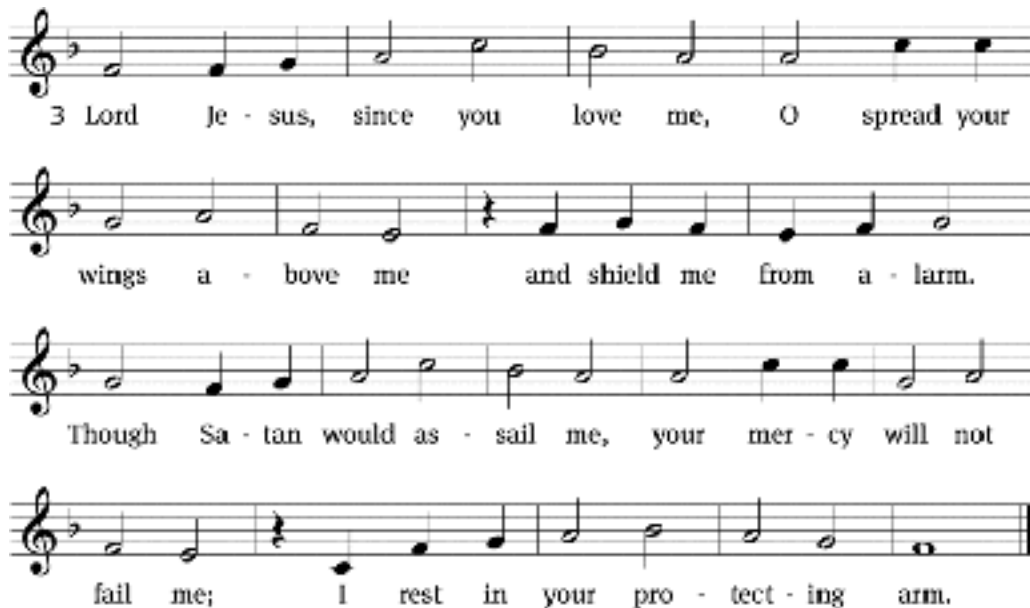
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn | 794, stanza 3 *printed below*



3 Lord Je - sus, since you love me, O spread your
wings a - bove me and shield me from a - larm.
Though Sa - tan would as - sail me, your mer - cy will not
fail me; I rest in your pro - tect - ing arm.



Thank you to Neil Woller for accompanying our worship with music this morning!

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

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