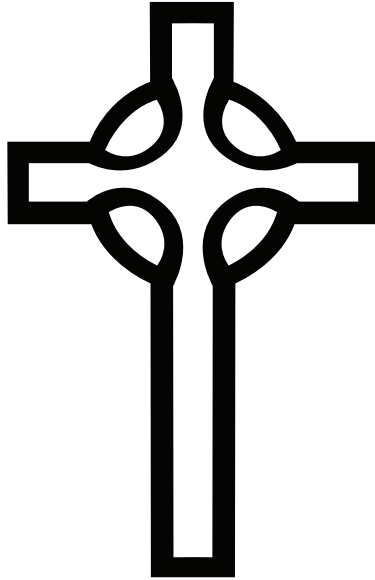


LENTEN VESPERS

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2018



*Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.
He fasted forty days and forty nights.*

Matthew 4:1

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lenten Worship at the Lord's Table

7 P.M., Sanctuary

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude and Fugue on Johannes Brahms
"O Heartbreak, O Sadness" Todd Fickley, organ

WELCOME Dr. David Renwick

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

One O Lord, open my lips,

All **And my mouth will declare your praise.**

One You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it.

All **You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

One The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

All **A broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.**

from Psalm 51

▲ HYMN 260 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Ein' feste Burg*

LENTEN CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Most merciful God,

whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way,
yet was without sin,

we confess before you our own sinfulness:

we have strayed from your ways in willfulness and pride,

we have doubted your goodness and grace,

we have disobeyed your commands,

we have done what is evil in your sight.

Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us from the stains of sin.

Restore in us such trust and love,

that we may walk in your path
and delight in your will.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Stuttgart*

Like the pity of a father has the Lord's compassion been;
Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4:1-11 Kristin Franke

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION Tested and Tempted Dr. David Renwick

CHORAL RESPONSE Louis Bourgeois

When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son

When we are tempted to deny your Son, because he leads us in a harder way,
And makes demands we do not want to pay, your will, O God be done.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Rev. Donna Marsh

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Jen Dunfee

Words of Institution and Distribution

Marking with Ashes offered for those who so desire

Music Meditations

A Lenten Walk

Hal Hopson

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself; Spiritual
O nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

Jesus bore the tempter's cunning; he had to bear the tempter's guile.

O nobody else could bear it for him, he had to bear it by himself.

We must take our cross and follow, yes, we must follow by ourselves.

O nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.

Chancel Choir

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Arnold Sherman

Grace Chimes, Carolann Haley, director

Prayer of Response and The Lord's Prayer

▲ HYMN 269 O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand *Dundee*

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Ah, Holy Jesus Johannes Brahms

Op. 122, No. 2

An offering will be received at the doors as you exit.

LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesday Evenings

Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m., Chapel

“Proclaiming the Cross”

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Feb. 21 | “Chosen to Carry His Cross” |
| Feb. 28 | “Boasting in the Cross” |
| March 7 | “Reconciled and United by the Cross” |
| March 14 | “The Death of Death in the Cross” |
| March 21 | “Transformed by the Cross” |

Sunday Mornings

9 & 11 a.m. (Sanctuary), 10:50 a.m. (Jones Hall)

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Feb. 18 | “Honest to God” | <i>Dr. David Renwick</i> |
| Feb. 25 | “Can Love Be Organized?” | <i>Dr. David Renwick</i> |
| March 4 | “Good Things at Bad Times?” | <i>Rev. Donna Marsh</i> |
| March 11* | “Gripped by the Light” | <i>Dr. David Renwick</i> |
| March 18 | “Welcoming a Stranger” | <i>Dr. Quinn Fox</i> |

**There will be ONE service at 11 a.m. on March 11 as we celebrate the kickoff of our Capital Campaign.*

HOLY WEEK

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Palm Sunday | March 25 Worship: 9, 10:50, and 11 a.m. Concert: 5 p.m. |
| Maundy Thursday | March 29 Worship: 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary |
| Good Friday | March 30 Worship: 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary |
| Easter Sunday | April 1 Sanctuary Worship: 8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m. Family Celebration: 10 a.m. in Jones Hall |



NATIONAL
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ASH WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness
to be **tempted** (=tested or tried) by the devil.

²He fasted forty days and forty nights,
and afterwards he was famished.

--- ³The tempter came and said to him,

“If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴But he answered,

“It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

--- ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city

and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying 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.’”***

⁷Jesus said to him,

“Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the **test**.’”

--- ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain

and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;

⁹and he said to him,

“All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him,

“Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him,

and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

1 Peter 1:3-7

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you, ⁵Who are being protected by the power of God
through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, *even if now for a little while*

*you have had to suffer various **trials/tests/temptations**,*

⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold
that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result
in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:2-4

²My brothers and sisters, *whenever you face **trials/tests/temptations**
of any kind*, consider it nothing but joy,

³because you know that the *testing* (purifying?) of your faith
produces endurance; ⁴and let endurance have its full effect,
so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the
devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and
sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

¹³**No testing** *has overtaken you that is not common to everyone.*

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength,
but with the testing he will also provide the way out
so that you may be able to endure it.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
weaknesses, **but we have a high priest [Jesus, the Son of God] who in
every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.**

SERMON NOTES

“Tested and Tempted” – Matthew 4:1-11

David A. Renwick

Ash Wednesday, 2018

1. A Confusing Phrase in The Lord’s Prayer

“Lead us not into temptation”

2. The Greek Word “peirasmos”

means a *temptation*, a *test*, or a time of *trial*

3. Early Christians expected Testing and Temptation

a. For Sanctification – James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-7

= to purify their lives from sin

b. As Part of the Spiritual Battle – 1 Peter 5:8-9

The Devil was real and was fighting to destroy

(a) their lives

(b) their allegiance to God

(c) their effectiveness for God

4. Jesus was Tested and Tempted

a. Jesus’ 40 days in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11)

Reminds us of Israel’s 40 years in the desert

Leads the Church to the “40 days of Lent”

b. Jesus’ Temptation was God’s means

by which Jesus could experience our humanity

and demonstrate his Divinity -- Hebrews 4:15

c. Jesus’ Temptation was the devil’s attempt

to destroy Jesus’ sinlessness

to destroy the effectiveness of his death for our sin

d. Jesus was Tempted to:

1. Doubt his Identity as the "Son of God"
2. Take Shortcuts to win our allegiance
3. Listen to the devil's voice, not God's
4. Rip Scripture out of context
5. Forget God's Word as a whole

e. Jesus resists Temptation

He has no Bible, BUT

He knows God's Word in his head and heart!

5. **Our Faith Will Be Tested Too**

If the first Christians were tempted (see Acts of the Apostles!)
and

If Jesus was tempted – so too will we be

SO... *"Lead us Not into temptation"*

Cannot mean

"Please let me have a life free from temptation, trial or trouble"

But must mean the same as the next line:

"Deliver us from evil"

Our Ash Wednesday and Lenten Prayer is:

Lord, we are weak, we are nothing but dust and ashes, prone to sin:

In these days,

Do not lead us into "the grip of" temptation

-- The place where we fail the test

-- The place where temptation weakens us, not strengthens us

-- The place where evil wins.

But, in these days, by your Spirit,

Lead us into and through any temptation, or trial, or test,

-- That will strengthen and renew our faith

-- That will help us be more Christ-like

-- That will make us love God more

-- That will make us more effective for You