

# The First Sunday in Lent



Temptation of Christ by Rembrandt

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

**February 21, 2021**

# Welcome!

*"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).*

We are thankful that you are joining in the worship of the people of God this day. Ushers at the door are glad to assist you at any time.

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, passed the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner of the sanctuary.

**Notice to Worshipers:** Today's service is livestreamed and recorded. It is available for public viewing and playback at [www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com](http://www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com) by clicking on the 'Watch Live' button.

## About the Offering

Gifts are gathered today at the offering plate near the sanctuary entrance. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts, but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

### **Hymn Notes on *Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord***

This hymn is a free paraphrase of an old Latin antiphon, "Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris," based on 2 Kings 20:19; 2 Chronicles 20:12; and Psalm 122:7, dating from the sixth century. It is likely that Luther wrote it shortly before its presumed appearance in Joseph Klug's *Geistliche Lieder* (1529), for in that year the evangelicals had ample reason to pray for peace: there was the uncertainty of the forthcoming second Diet of Spires plus the threat of the Turks approaching Vienna. In his *Admonition to Pray against the Turks* Luther expressly recommended that this hymn be sung.

*We are imperfect people and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.*

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# The First Sunday in Lent

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## + GATHERING +

**Prayer As We Begin** — *Please stand.*

**☩ Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today, accomplish in us, the purpose you desire. Amen.**

### **The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**☩ Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. Then the confession.*

**P** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

**☩ The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.**

**P** Amen.

**☩ I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**☩ Amen.**

**Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved** — *Choir and congregation sing responsively.* **LSB 945**



1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer-cy up - on us.  
 2 O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer-cy up - on us.



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev - 'ry  
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save From sting of  
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid The fee - ble



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; Up - on Your cross - for -  
 death and grasp of grave; Your scars be - fore the  
 child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.  
 Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.  
 help us pray; Bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

**Salutation and Collect Prayer**

**L** The LORD be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** We pray together...

**C** O 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. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## + WORD +

### Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

☒ *The Old Testament Reading for the First Sunday in Lent is from Genesis, chapter 22. In an event that prefigures what he himself will do many centuries later, God tests Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice his beautiful boy. Because Abraham obeys the Lord, all the nations of the earth are blessed through this same son.*

<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."

☒ This is the Word of the LORD.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

James 1:12-18

**L** The Epistle Reading is from James, chapter one. The brother of our Lord and the leader of the Jerusalem church, James writes as pastor to instruct and encourage his dispersed people in the face of their difficulties.

<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 first fruits of his creatures.

**L** This is the Word of the LORD.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**The Lenten Verse** — *Please stand.*

LSB 157



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**L** Turn away  
**E**  
**N**  
**T** from sin



## Holy Gospel

℣ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

### ☩ Glory to You, O Lord.

<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."

℣ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### ☩ Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

℣ Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

*Please be seated.*

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

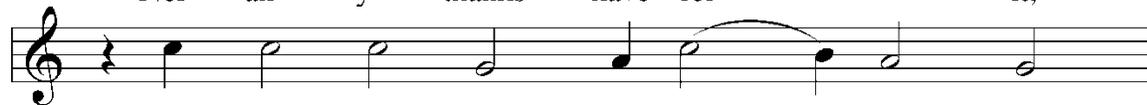
LSB 656



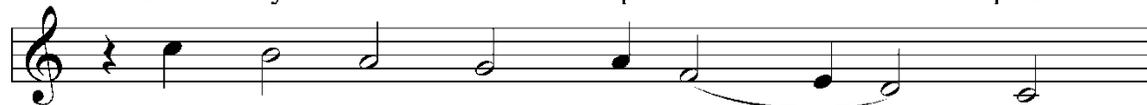
1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;  
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 But for us fights the val - iant One,  
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 He's by our side up - on the plain



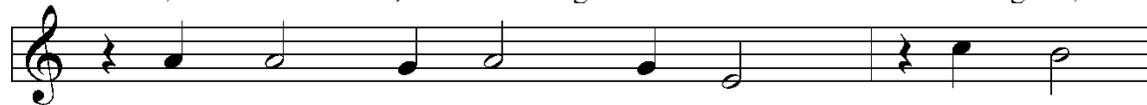
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main eth.

## The Message

### The Prayers of the Church and the Our Father — *Please stand.*

- C** 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

## + SENDING +

### Benedicamus and Blessing

**L** Let us bless the LORD.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE  
fill you with all JOY and PEACE  
as you TRUST in him,  
so that YOU may overflow with HOPE  
by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

**L** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen



Grant peace, we pray, in mer-cy, Lord; Peace in our time, O send us!  
For there is none on earth but You, None oth-er to de-fend us.  
You on - ly, Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff concludes with a double bar line.

## **The Worship of the Holy Church Throughout the World During the Season of Lent**

*Return the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)*

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days, excluding Sundays, which are always feasts in celebration of the resurrection. The forty days recall Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness following his baptism.

Lent — the word originally referred to the lengthening days of springtime — is to be understood as a time for rebirth and renewal, especially in view of one's own baptism, in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Reflecting this emphasis on repentance and preparation, the liturgy is starker and more reserved during Lent. The music is subdued and the Alleluias are removed from the Church's singing. They will return in full force at Easter, the crown season of the Church's year.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of his beloved Son and in the power of his Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

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# Take Home Announcements — Sunday, February 21, 2021

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## Serving the Lord Today

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Gary Weier 228.284.4314 <a href="mailto:garyweier@yahoo.com">garyweier@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Shirley Thone and Sheila Curry
<b>Organist</b>	Jason Sims

## Today's Theme

*"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." This petition resonates on the lips of God's people in the Lord's Prayer. It is God who guards us from the devil's cunning deception. Jesus Himself rallied against Satan in the wilderness. He intimately knows the perils of facing temptation. We, too, are to remain steadfast, fortified by the Word of truth, knowing that the Lord provides the greatest sacrifice in the death of His only Son.*

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline:** Tuesday at 5pm

**Altar Flowers:** Potesta — To the Glory of God

**Eternal Candle:** Christina Keiper— In memory of her father, Archie Keiper

## Scriptures for Next Sunday

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Romans 5:1-11

Mark 8:27-38

## Birthdays

Richard Radavich	February 20
Helga Herrington	February 22
Jonathon Stringer	February 25

## Baptisms

Brenda Hesselgrave	February 22
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## **Live Streaming of Worship Services —**

[www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com](http://www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com).

**Online Giving** — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John Hattiesburg via the 'Give' tab at the top of our webpage. Thank you for generously supporting our work together in Jesus' name.

**February 'Good News' Church Newsletter** — Available online at the church website and printed copies at the lobby mailboxes.

**March Newsletter Deadline** — Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am.

**Altar Flowers Sponsors** needed for March 7, 21, and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday West Hattiesburg Bible Study** — Debbie Frederick leads this study on Genesis hosted in the home of Shirley Thone. Please contact either of them for directions. The gathering includes wearing masks, washing hands, and watching our physical distancing. This study meets on the first and third Wednesdays only. The next meeting will be held March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Memorial Service** for Bill Korinek will be Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Saint John.

**THIS WEEK**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>10:30am Worship</u>	<u>10am Newsletter Deadline</u>  <u>12pm AA</u>	<u>12pm AA</u>	<u>12pm AA</u>	<u>12pm AA Mtg</u>	<u>12pm AA Mtg</u>	<u>10am AA</u>  <u>2pm Korinek</u> <u>Memorial Service</u>

**Pastoral Call Process**

**Progress Report** — The Call Committee has completed the first big step of the process in conducting a survey of the congregation, gathering names of suggested pastoral candidates, and collecting congregational data. This has been compiled and submitted to the Southern District office. The next step is for their review of congregational information and gathering of information on available pastoral candidates, which will then be sent to our Call Committee for evaluation and review, likely in late February or early March. The Call Committee will then conduct initial interviews, discuss, and determine second interviews, potential site visits, and recommendations to the congregation.

**Duty Roster** — Those serving on the Call Committee are: Mark Keyl (chair), Christina Jimenez, Wayland Johnson, Nancy Kaul, Jane Kersh, Steve Lawrence, Christopher Longman, Shawn O'Connor, Ethan Potesta, Pat Potesta, and Dennis Smith.

**Scheduled Meetings** —TBA.

<b>Prayers Needed</b>			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trena Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trena Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas/ Virus Test	Son of Norbert and Trena Thiel	12/4/16
Matt Geroux	Serving Overseas	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	12/13/17
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Overseas	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Stateside	SIL of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
Edward Curry	Cancer	Brother of Shelia Curry	2/11/18
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Dennis Smith	Cancer; Chemotherapy	Member	10/6/19
Eric Martin	Cancer	Member	10/6/19
Sharon Andrews and Rachelle Kemnits	Cancer	Sisters of Donna Blair	1/26/20
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
Monecia Smalley	Cancer	Friend of Elaine Kersh	7/30/20
DuWayne Lemke	Lung Cancer	Brother of Shirley Thone	8/23/20
Brett Kull	Cancer	Cousin of Will Noffke	11/15/20
Alice Gamble	Pancreatic Cancer	Member	11/22/20
Joshua Floyd	Brain Tumors	Family friend of Lorhetta Lawrence	12/6/20
Joyce Lee McNeils	Lung Cancer	Cousin of Patrice Lovdahl	1/10/21
Richard Radavich	Health and Strength	Member	1/31/18
Lisa Case	Health and Strength	Member	12/1/18
Richard McLeroy	Health and Strength	Father of Lisa Case	5/19/19
Hortens McCullough	Health and Strength	Sister of Eric and Jean Martin	8/4/19
Jerry Farris	Health and Strength	Cousin of Susan and Sandy	9/15/20
Olive Gorman	Health and Strength	Member	11/22/20
Family of Bill Korinek	Died January 25, 2021	Former Member	1/25/21
Fresh Hope Group	For sponsor and participants	Wednesday Evenings at 6pm	7/26/20
Campus Mission	For its advance and increase	For all students and educators	7/26/20
Pastoral Leadership	For wisdom, discernment, and courage	Transition and Calling of Next Pastor	7/26/20



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