

when Jesus began the suffering to deliver fallen mankind from the powerful hold of sin, death and Satan. The temptation of Christ occurs by the will of God. Our temptations do not happen by accident, the temptations are real and put us in dire circumstances. The arrogance of Satan shows in that while Jesus could not sin, Satan still came to tempt. The difference between our temptation and the temptation of Christ is that we have already fallen. Jesus met all of Satan’s temptations with the Word of God and won the victory for the right of human flesh to appeal to the Word of God as the reference of salvation. Our victory over temptation, over sin, comes through the blood of Jesus, who fulfilled the prophecy of Savior.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O God of all grace, mercy and peace, by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, You declared Him to be Your Son and our Savior. By the faithful testimony of the Apostles You have given us the assurance that our faith stands on a true and certain record. Grant us the witness of Your Holy Spirit, that our hearts will rest in Your truth.

We thank You for the gift of eternal life in Your Son. Preserve and defend us from all assaults on our souls, so that we may hold fast to the profession of our faith. Deliver us from doubt and despair. Save us from vain philosophies and worldly wisdom. Give us Your doctrine, the Spirit of truth and the mind of Christ.

Listen, O Lord, to our prayer and hear us for the sake of Jesus. Forgive our sins. Strengthen our faith. Bring us back when we are forgetful and wayward. Allow us to speak Your Word in the public places and change the hearts of the people who hear Your Word that they would turn from their sinfulness and follow You.

Have compassion on Your church, that we will faithfully preach Your Word and proclaim the Gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. For all the schools of this church, the colleges and the seminaries, our Sunday School and education programs we ask that You would send a special measure of Your blessing that all the efforts will bring forth people who walk in the way of Your commands and are obedient to Your will.

Look with compassion on the injured among us. To all who have any need, show Yourself as the Source of all Good and well being. Restore them to their health and well-being that they can return to Your house and with us praise Your Holy name.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) All this we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.

© Amen.

LENT ONE

Chant Tone



Introit 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 satis fy 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 satis fy him* and show him My sal — vation. <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 91:15-16; Psalm 91:9-13)</i>
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Collect of the Day

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.

Gradual

[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.

(Hebrews 12:2)

Verse

Put on the whole ar | mor of God*
that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the — devil.

(Ephesians 6:11)

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ENTRANCE PRAYER: Gracious Lord, Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we, Your chosen bring to You our sacrifice of prayer and praise. For not rebuking us in Your anger or chastening us in Your wrath, we give You thanks. For hearing our supplications and accepting our prayers, we adore Your Holy name. While we wait for the fulfillment of Your promises regarding Your kingdom, grant Your continual blessing to our nation and the nations of the Earth. Give peace in our time that Your Gospel may have free course and be preached to the edifying of people everywhere. In the wonderful name of Jesus we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SEASON OF LENT IS A DIFFICULT TIME OF JOY AND SADNESS. The forty days of Lent were traditionally used by the early church as days of fasting and preparation. The Sundays of Lent are not counted into the fast, since as Jesus said (Matthew 9:15) the people at a wedding don't fast while the bridegroom is with them. We teach that every Sunday, even the Sundays in Lent are spiritually Easter Sunday, when we come to worship in the wonder of the glory of our Savior who defeated sin, death and the grave, and with His blood has washed us clean to be eternal members of the kingdom of Glory in Heaven. We welcome everyone to worship on this day of the Lord. We want to thank everyone for the blending of voices in praise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Overcoming Temptation

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 91:15-16) Psalm 91:9-13
Psalm 91 was written by David and is an encouragement to take God as our keeper, as our every present help in the time of distress. God will lift us up (by His angels) lest we strike our foot.

COLLECT

The Collect prepares us to hear the wilderness events in our lessons. We ask that Jesus would guide us through the wilderness of this world to the glory of eternal life in Heaven.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 3:1-21

In Genesis 2:16, God gave man one commandment. The incredible selfishness of man is shown. Man wanted to be God. Listening to the temptation was horrible enough (for which Satan received eventual punishment,) falling to the temptation received its reward. Man knew the difference between good and evil and discovered we had chosen evil. Immediately we sought to cover up our disobedience and the sin compounded on itself, growing into something with a life of its own. We were left with nowhere to turn. In verse 15 God made the promise of a Savior, and Jesus came to fulfill what we had broken.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews chapter 12 compares the greater wonder of Heaven to our place here on Earth, and encourages us to look to Jesus for patience.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 5:12-19

This text is about two totally different men. One might say there is a villain and a hero. Adam sinned and introduced sin to the entire human race. Jesus came into the world to conquer sin and to declare the sinful descendants of the Adam righteous. In baseball the "error" of one player can lose the game for the entire team. In our case, the error of one lost our perfection. Jesus assumed the burden of sin for the entire world. He picked up the errors of the entire world and paid the price for that sin. Jesus made it right with God so that we are no longer seen as the son of Adam, but the son of God.

VERSE—Ephesians 6:11

Today our verse co-ordinates in that it reminds us of our stand against Satan, wherein Jesus stands in our place against Satan.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 4:1-11

We sometimes think of the passion of Christ as beginning on Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem to die. In fact, it all began with His birth