

## THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN LENT, February 24, 2021

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

### OPENING LITANY AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

**C: Amen.**

**P:** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**C: He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge.**

**P:** When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble.

**C: With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.**

**P:** With humble and repentant hearts, let us confess our sins unto God our Father.

**C: O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.**

**P:** On the basis of your confession and the Lord's promise, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### SECOND LESSON: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**MEDITATION,** Amazing Grace for the Tempted

**HYMN:** “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”, LSB 421

*(Text: Public Domain)*

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing in your holy wounds I find,  
Ev’ry hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning keep me from its first beginning.  
Should some lust or sharp temptation fascinate my sinful mind,  
Draw me to your cross and passion, and new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,” that the tempter flee confounded.  
O my God, my rock and tower, grant that in your death I trust,  
Knowing death has lost its power since you crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let your agony ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection, light and life and resurrection.**

**PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. Father in heaven, in this life we are tempted and indeed often give in to sinful desires. We are frail and admit our guilt. Yet your Son Jesus Christ has resisted every temptation of the devil on our behalf and by the gift of faith you account His victory as ours. Grant us to believe this firmly.

**C: Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

**BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Amazing Grace”, st. 1

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.**