**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 26, 2023, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

Today's gospel tells of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God’s mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING SONG Come and Gather *Tree of Life with music available in narthex***

***Refrain***

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life.**

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life—**

**root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.**

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life.**

1. Here we raise the saving cross of Jesus,

singing praise to him who leads us on from death into new life. ***(Refrain)***

5. Rooted in the rich earth of your Gospel,

may we bear the fruits your Word has planted deep within our hearts. ***(Refrain)***

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who journeys with us these forty days,

and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another

our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,

so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ’s name,

and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**CHILDREN’S SONG He is the Light**

Ooowoaho. Ooowoaho

Jesus is the one that lights are way. Ooowoaho, Ooowoaho.

He gives us hope for each new day. Ooowoaho, Ooowoaho.

When the world feels dark and lonely, His love illuminates.

He's the one I trust and I will follow him.

***Refrain***

**He is the light that breaks through the darkness. Follow his lead and Light it up! Light it up!**

**Jesus will guide us, through every dark time. Follow his lead and Light it up! Light up the world! *(repeat all)***

I'm gonna follow Jesus, wherever He will lead me. I'm gonna follow Jesus, all the wa-ay!

I'm gonna follow Jesus, wherever He will lead me. I'm gonna follow Jesus, all the wa-ay!

***Refrain***

Light up the World!

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”  
 3:1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So 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. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 32**

1Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
  and whose sin is put away!  
 2**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,**  
  **and in whose spirit there is no guile!**  
 3While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
  because of my groaning all day long.  
 4**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;**  
  **my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**  
 5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
  I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
 6**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;**  
  **when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**  
 7You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
  you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
 8**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;**  
  **I will guide you with my eye.**  
 9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
  who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”  
 10**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;**  
  **but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**  
 11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
  shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

12Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—13sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.  
 15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.  
 18Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Tree of Life**

**Return to the Lord, your God,**

**who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,**

**and abounding in steadfast love,**

**and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

1Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **When We Are Tested ACS 922**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

Do you or someone you know need an extra prayer said? There are ***PRAYER REQUEST CARDS***

on the table in the narthex. Requests can be kept confidential, with Pastor, or can be made public to the congregation via Shepherd Staff email and in prayer at worship.

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in February*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***Shirley’s House of Hope****. Their mission is to Rebuild, Renew and Restore the lives of women and children hurting from domestic violence along with alcohol and drug addictions.*

**OFFERING SONG When Peace like a River ELW 785**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings

as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence

through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sung) Tree of Life**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,

☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

**SONG Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song ELW 808**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | |
| March 5 | Tammy Neumann | Andrea Hovick | Dave & Sue Schaeder | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |
| March 12 | Rob & Leslie Mader | Laurel Peterson | Ron Rothfusz  Andrea Hovick | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Tuesday, February 28 | 9:30-10:30 am | Children’s of WI playgroup – all parents & children under 4 welcome |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA meeting in the fellowship hall |
| Wednesday, March 1 | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship Service |
|  | 7:30 pm | Confirmation Class for 7th & 8th grade |
| Thursday, March 2 | 12-2:00 pm | Purple Angels Memory Cafe |
| Sunday, March 5 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Second Sunday in Lent * John 3:1-17; the mission of Christ: to save the world. * Sunday School |

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