

February 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Join the Struggle

From the very beginning there is a struggle between good and evil. The serpent tempts Adam and Eve to eat from the forbidden tree. The story reveals our human desire to transcend our limitations and to become like God. It may be the story of Adam and Eve, but the Hebrew word for humanity, *adam*, hints that it is also the story of every man and woman.

We face the same temptation as our ancestors in the garden. We are tempted to do whatever we want, avoid responsibility, and forget the rest of the world. We are tempted to deny our mortality and place the blame on anyone but ourselves--even God.

It is always tempting to point to the evil outside ourselves; to believe that another person, group, or nation is evil but that we are full of good. There is the ever-present danger, too, that we will counter evil with evil and become the very thing we claim to hate. Here our theological tradition sheds light: we are both saint and sinner at the same time. We are created in God's image, and we share in the brokenness of creation.

In their wilderness struggle, the tempter entices Jesus with three things that can make us believe we don't need God: self-sufficiency, pride, and power. Our baptism joins us to this struggle. In our baptism we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and the works of love are Lenten disciplines that help us wage our spiritual warfare.

The battle between good and evil isn't just "out there" somewhere. It lives in all of us, in our nation, in our churches, in our hearts. Lent reminds us to be honest and to wrestle with our temptations, addictions, compulsions, and selfishness. It reminds us, too, that Jesus will be with us in the struggle.

First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
419-691-7222

office@firststjohn.com

www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 26, 2023 - 10:30 am

February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

2023 EASTER FLOWER SALE

SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order flowers that will decorate the church on Easter morning, April 9th. The price is \$15.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Fill out the order form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. The final Sunday to order will be March 26th. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks out to: **First St. John Lutheran** and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 26th.

Number of plants @ \$15.00 each _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Type of plant: _____
(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

FEBRUARY 2023

ELCA.org/disaster

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes, one a magnitude 7.8 and the second a magnitude 7.5, hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The two quakes devastated both countries, killing thousands of people and collapsing thousands of buildings.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to the earthquakes. ACT Alliance

member organizations are providing immediate aid; a comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

Gifts to “Middle East Crisis” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquakes and other disasters in the region. Together we can provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.

.....
Yes, I want to help!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$_____DDG0010

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: Middle East Crisis \$_____IDG0038

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write “Where needed most” or
“Middle East Crisis” on your check’s memo line.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

(Please stand)

Dr. Pattin

Opening Hymn “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” No. 843

Confession and Forgiveness

P: While we still were sinners, Christ died for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C: have mercy on us.

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say: "Peace be with you."

Refrain

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -
ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O
God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O
Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and
sing the glo - ry of your name? *Refrain* Sal - va - tion be - longs to our
God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.
2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

No. 338

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

ACOLYTES

Jordan Cummerow, Aubrey Swartz

READER

Lisa Anderson

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

P: Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast.

C: Lord, with thankful hearts we come.

The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.

"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

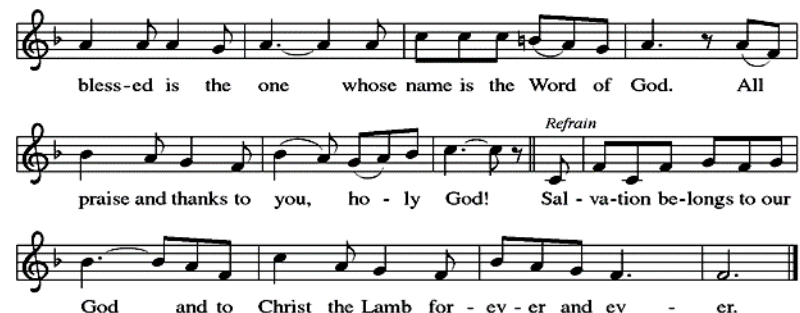
P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

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

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the Creator, creation, and one another. This passage recounts the first in a series of stories that depicts the nature of human sin--wanting to be like God.

The 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."

^{3:1}Now 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

**¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

*Paul describes the effect of Jesus' obedience versus that of Adam's disobedience.
Through Christ, God has reversed the consequences of sin and death to offer the free
gift of eternal life.*

Just 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.

Offertory Music "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" FSJ Bell Choir
Cheri Sergeant, Director

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you
open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table
that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus
Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good to give our thanks and praise.

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your
glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached
out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to
the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the
wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of
Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be
all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Pastor Rayl

No. 335

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

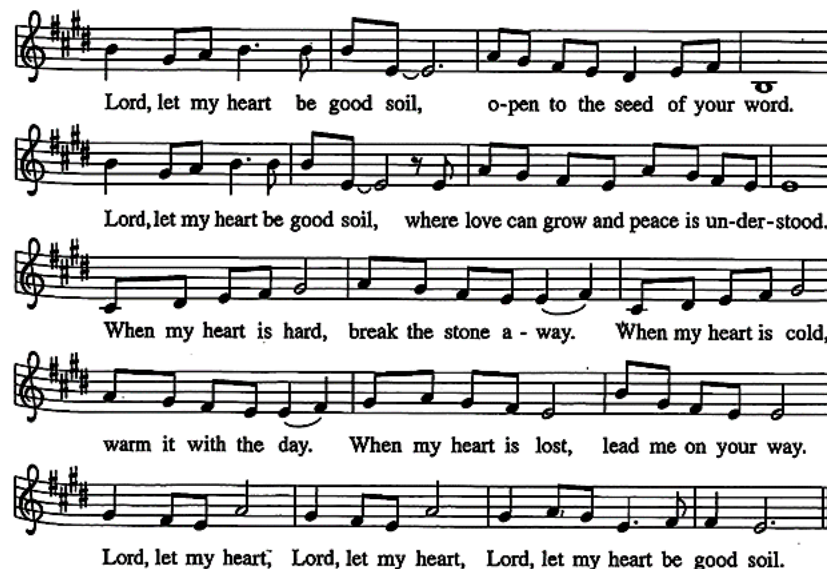
Bell Choir

"The Lord is My Shepherd"

FSJ Bell Choir
Cheri Sergent, Director

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 4.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the evil one's testing.

Jesus 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.' "