



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Testing of Jesus

January 19, 2025

10:30 Holy Communion

Right after Jesus is baptized by John he is driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. He spends 40 days there and is tested by the devil. Luke puts a curious piece in between the baptism and the wilderness. Today we'll explore why. We'll also see how Elijah also had a 40 day experience waiting for God.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Will You Come and Follow Me
For music turn to Hymn 798 in the Red Hymnal

1. **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
2. **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”**
3. **“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**
4. **“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Scottish Traditional

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You are invited to kneel if you wish. Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Now the Feast and Celebration

(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

Refrain

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom
praise and glory forevermore!**

**1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*

**2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*

**3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Genesis 3:1-7

B: 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?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;³ but 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.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die;⁵ for 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.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 91 (*read responsively*)

D: All you sheltered by the Most High,
who live in Almighty God’s shadow,

**C: say to the Lord, “My refuge, my fortress,
my God in whom I trust!”**

D: God will free you from hunters’ snares,
will save you from deadly plague,

**C: will cover you like a nesting bird.
God’s wings will shelter you.**

D: No nighttime terror shall you fear,

no arrows shot by day,

**C: no plague that prowls the dark,
no wasting scourge at noon.**

D: A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand.

**C: But you shall live unharmed:
God is sturdy armor.**

D: You have only to open your eyes
to see how the wicked are repaid.

**C: You have the Lord as refuge,
have made the Most High your stronghold.**

D: No evil shall ever touch you,
no harm come near your home.

**C: God instructs angels
to guard you wherever you go.**

D: With their hands they support you,
so your foot will not strike a stone.

**C: You will tread on lion and viper,
trample tawny lion and dragon.**

D: "I deliver all who cling to me,
raise the ones who know my name,
answer those who call me,
stand with those in trouble.

**C: These I rescue and honor,
satisfy with long life,
and show my power to save."**

Second Reading 1 Kings 19:1-9

E: Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the Lord came a second time,

touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.⁹ At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 John 3:11)

C: Alleluia. God instructs angels to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they support you, so your foot will not strike a stone. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 3:21-4:13

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd and 4th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."²³ Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli,²⁴ son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Melchi, son of Jannai, son of Joseph,²⁵ son of Mattathias, son of Amos, son of Nahum, son of Esli, son of Naggai,²⁶ son of Maath, son of Mattathias, son of Semein, son of Josech, son of Joda,²⁷ son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri,²⁸ son of Melchi, son of Addi, son of Cosam, son of Elmadam, son of Er,²⁹ son of Joshua, son of Eliezer, son of Jorim, son of Matthat, son of Levi,³⁰ son of Simeon, son of Judah, son of Joseph, son of Jonam, son of Eliakim,³¹ son of Melea, son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of David,³² son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon,³³ son of Amminadab, son of Admin, son of Arni, son of Hezron, son of Perez, son of Judah,³⁴ son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham, son of Terah, son of Nahor,³⁵ son of Serug, son of Reu, son of Peleg, son of Eber, son of Shelah,³⁶ son of Cainan, son of Arphaxad, son of Shem, son of Noah, son of Lamech,³⁷ son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalaleel, son of Cainan,³⁸ son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God,

command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.”⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God
(for music, please turn to Hymn 783 in the Blue Hymnal)

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**2. Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**3. We do not live by bread alone, but by ev’ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
Allelu, alleluia.**

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: 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,
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.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of grace,

C: your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

† MEAL †

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 right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

779 You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (Red Hymnal)

733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Red Hymnal)

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation of healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Just a Closer Walk With Thee

(For music turn to Hymn 697 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

1. **I am weak, by thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.** *Refrain*

2. **Through this world of toils and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.** *Refrain*

3. **When my feeble life is o'er
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.** *Refrain*

Text and music: North American traditional

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood
Acolyte Elijah Young
Altar Care
Communion Assistant Linda Flood
Counters Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour Annual Congregational Meeting - Sandwiches

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 26, 2025

Greeters and Ushers Janice Lockwood
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
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