

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

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

Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (v10)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 4:1-11

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days & forty nights, & afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came & 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 & 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,' & '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 & showed him all the kingdoms of the world & their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down & worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, & serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, & suddenly angels came & waited on him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare & contrast the Gospel reading with the Old Testament one, paying attention to the use of scripture/God's commands & the goodness of what's offered (deceptively) in temptation. *See Philippians 2:5-11*
2. Jesus' temptation follows immediately after -his baptism (3:1-17) & before he begins his ministry (4:12-17) & calls his first disciples (4:18-22). What insight does this give? *See Genesis 32:1-32; Exodus 2:11--3:12; 1 Kings 19:1-9; Acts 9:1-30; Galatians 1:13-24 (esp. vv17-18); review the Small Catechism: Creed, 3rd Art., available bookofconcord.org*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What advantage do you have in your experience of devilish temptation as a result of this Gospel account?
4. What temptations do you find hardest to renounce, reject, avoid, etc.? Write a list of at least 10 & be specific. Pray about them daily this Lent. *Note: things might feel worse before they start feeling better. See Luke 22:46; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Ephesians 6:12-13; Hebrews 12:4; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Peter 2:9*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Temptation crosses the line into sin not when it is persistent, but when we indulge it by thoughts (daydreaming, fantasizing, "what if...?" etc.), words, & actions; how would you help a neighbor beset by persistent temptation? *See Job 31:1; Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28; Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:1-3; James 1:14-15*
6. Ironically, the more temptation is resisted, the more apparent temptations become; how can you speak winsomely to a friend or neighbor who doesn't recognize the temptations they indulge?

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First Sunday in Lent
Series: Death & Resurrection

02.26.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

No.
*Renouncing the forces of sin, death & the devil at Baptism
begins a lifetime of saying “No!”*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God, & serve only him.’” (v10)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*)

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