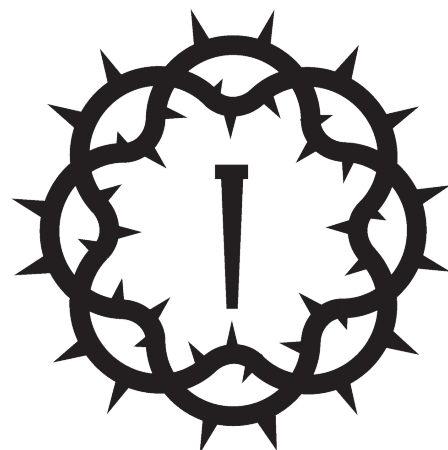


Lent 1

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

This Sunday's Gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as the Spirit pronounces him "Son of God" and drives him into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. We, too, in our baptism, are pronounced children of God, which means we will face similar trials and temptations as our Lord did. The good news for us is that we will never be alone in our trials; Christ goes before us and remains with us.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Genesis 3:1-21**Temptation in the Garden**

The serpent craftily convinced Eve to mistrust the goodness of God and eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil even though she and Adam were forbidden to do so. God pronounced the consequences of the first humans' disobedience. Our continuing struggle is our lack of faithfulness toward the faithful God.

Psalm 32:1-7**God Offers Forgiveness**

The psalmist recounted the joy of having experienced God's forgiveness. The pain of holding in guilt contrasts with the relief of acknowledging and coming to terms with sin by bringing it to the Lord in honesty and hearing his saving Word in return.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**Free Gift of Grace**

Paul compared the means by which sin entered the world through Adam and with the way righteousness was given through Jesus Christ, driving home the concept that, through Jesus, righteousness is the free gift of God's grace.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11**Temptation of Jesus**

Jesus' preparation for his public ministry involved time in the desert during which he was tempted to display his power and use it for his own benefit. The temptation served to solidify Jesus' understanding of himself and his ministry and displayed his humility and obedience to the will of his Father. Nothing Satan offered Jesus would make him turn away from his mission on earth. Jesus was focused and faithful.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

Liturgical Color: Purple

During the Season of Lent:

- Use the Kyrie.
- Omit the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles' Creed.

Focus on the fact that there is a clear difference between temptation and testing in the Scriptures. The devil tempts. He twists God's word so that it sounds reasonable, but there is always something "off." God never tempts — he tests. His testing is to help us learn his ways and to help us trust that he is in control and will always be with us. Testing is educational.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
The Sun Beat Down Upon His Head	---	---	---	---	---	web
Just As I Am	296	---	570	592	193	193
O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days	99	---	418	319	---	---
In the Cross of Christ I Glory	104	---	427	324	138	138
Lord Jesus, Think on Me	309	---	610	599	178	178
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	---	660	---	325	---	---
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	---
Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing	259	---	924	545	54	54
What A Friend We Have in Jesus	439	---	770	742	223	223

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Forgiveness
(CCLI# 6423944)
Song of Repentance
(CCLI# 4694713)
Lord, I Need You
(CCLI# 5925687)
Give Me Jesus
(CCLI# 4874344)
One Thing
(CCLI# 7047247)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.