

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 28th , 2021—10 a.m.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



140 Russell Avenue

St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1

Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

www.christlutheransc.ca

February 28th, 2021

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Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661, www.christlutheransc.ca

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com

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Secretary: Pat Kimpel, secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen, Gillian Leaver

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

Bulletin by email: Judy Mason, chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Prayer: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Service: 10 a.m. (*printed copy of service at back of bulletin*)

Sunday Musician: Susanne Anderson

Sunday Reader: Paul Mason

Sunday School: Fruit of the Spirit #8 - Gentleness -- https://youtu.be/P8Ym334P_Og

Precious Moments: Bartimaeus - <https://youtu.be/gXlrbL3erSY>

Children's Message: <https://youtu.be/UGVKxocMaps>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: John 7: 14-18

Wed.: 1 Sam. 3: 1-18

Friday: Heb. 5: 4-10

Tuesday: Acts 5: 17-29

Thurs: Jer. 20: 7-13

Saturday: Matt. 21: 33-46

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: What should the Christian life look like? Join us as we study the book of James (by Jesus' brother). Together let's study and journal what it means to live authentically and victoriously through challenges of life! Join us on Zoom **bi-monthly at 7:00 p.m.** as we learn with Dr. Lina AbuJamra through our Right Now Media Ministry. For more information or to receive the link contact Louise 905-329-8579.

COLLECTION NOTE: At this point we are not 'collecting' any materials for the church. This means no milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or Soul; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you!

Attention Donors to Mary Martha: the National LWMLC Triennium of 2018 -2021 is almost over so all are encouraged to submit your mites to Ivy ASAP by mail or drop off at the church. We are hoping to fulfill all the Mission Projects before March 31. Thanks to all who continue to support the Lord's command. Fran Porteous, Zone Pres.

LENTEN MIDWEEK:

1. A Devotional Message by Pastor Todd will be recorded and placed onto his You-tube site Wednesday mornings featuring "**The Crosses of Lent**" every Wednesday leading up to Holy Week.
2. A ZOOM Lenten Bible Study (7 - 8 PM all Wednesdays in Lent leading up to Holy Week) will be offered Wednesday evenings in Lent focusing our eyes on the suffering and death of Jesus as recorded in Mark's Gospel.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! It is with great appreciation for your support that we tell you that we were able to raise \$5057.00 with our *BAZAAR* efforts last fall. Even though we were unable to hold our Bazaar as we usually do, having congregation members and friends just give us orders and then do a curbside pick up, worked very well and we were thrilled both with the amount of support we received and the amount we were able to raise. Even without all the various Tables and Areas that we usually set up downstairs, you really “stepped up” to help our efforts. Not only did many people give us orders, but many also made generous donations. We are so grateful. We have usually in the past, given away the proceeds at our January LWMLC/M.M. Meeting, but we held off this year hoping we would be meeting in person in February. When that was still unable to happen we decided at the “Zoom” February meeting to go ahead and get the donations sent out. The following disbursements have been made:

Seminary \$500	Nicaragua \$700	LBT \$400
CLWR \$700	SOUL \$457	Refugee Fund \$1000
Medical Missions \$500	Haiti Feeding Programme \$700	Lamp \$100

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:

it's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when in-person services are not available.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3 Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave. St.Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageld=donation-edit&categoryld=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

MORNING PRAISE

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia worship services

THE 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

BEGINNING SONG

"In The Cross Of Christ I Glory"

LSB # 427

- 1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2. When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me: lo! It glows with peace and joy.**
- 3. When the sun of bliss is beaming-- light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming-- adds more lustre to the day.**
- 4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

SPOKEN MORNING PRAYER SCRIPTURE RESPONSES

Open up my lips O LORD!

And my mouth will sing praises to Your Name!

Come quickly to Help me, O Lord

And be speedy to keep me away from harm.

Teach me Your Way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was then, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Lamb of our salvation.

Give glory to our God, our Light and our Life!

O Come, let us worship Him!

PSALM

(Hymn version of Psalm 96; Tune: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB # 449)

**Sing out, sing out, all voices, shout to the Rock Who saves!
With thanks, bow down before Him, Come near and praise the Lord!
For He, our King has blest us; from mountain top and hills,
The heights and depths He fashioned, and we belong to Him.
Bow down, in faith, before Him, for He has made us all!
As sheep of the Great Shepherd, He feeds us as we go.
All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
And praise to God, the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray to the Lord;

Lord, have mercy:

Merciful God and Father, we thank You for sending Your Son to suffer death on a cross and give his life as an offering for all people. Teach us, who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, to forget ourselves and die to sin so that we may truly rely on Christ as our Saviour and Lord. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament *Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you....And God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle *Romans 4:13-25*

[St. Paul writes:] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were

written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUNG LENTEN GOSPEL VERSE

"On My Heart Imprint"

www.hymnary.orgLSB422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

The Holy Gospel *St. Mark 8: 31-38*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Then [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

SERMON SONG: "How Deep the Father's Love"

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E F#m E/G# A E/G# E/B B

How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas-ure that
 Be-hold the Man up-on a cross, my sin up-on His shoul-ders. A-
 I will not boast in an-y-tings; no gifts, no pow'r no wis-dom. But

E F#m E/G# A E/G# B E

He should give His on-ly Son to make a wretch His treas-ure. How
 shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call out a-mong the scof-fers. It
 I will boast in Je-sus Christ: His death and res-ur-rec-tion. Why

F#m E/G# E E/G# C#m B

great the pain of sear-ring loss. The Fa-ther turns His face a-way as
 was my sin that held-Him there. un-til it was ac-com-plished; His
 should I gain from His-re-ward I can-not give an an-swer. But

E F#m E/G# A E/G# B

wounds which mar the Cho-sen One bring man-y sons to glo-
 dy-ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin-
 this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran-

1.,2. *E A/C# E/B E A²* **3.** *E*

ry.
 ished.

2. Be- som.
 3. I

MESSAGE

Mark 8:31-38 + "A Life That's Not Our Own"

LENTEN PRAISE SONG

"My Soul Rejoices"

Words: Stephen Starke, 1955; © 1991 Hymnal Supplement 98 www.trinityslayton.net/pastors_notes/

**My soul rejoices, my spirit voices—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Saviour, has shown me favour—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, join in confessing
God, who is solely, mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely, shall rest securely
on all who fear Him, love and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His arm now baring, His strength declaring—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, their rule He shatters—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; the meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token, all that was spoken
to Abraham's offspring --God is fulfilling—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

THE PRAYERS

Responsive Prayer based on the 10 Commandments

Lord God heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us that we must have no other gods. Keep us faithful to You alone and dethrone the idols in our lives. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Lord, Your name is holy and You etched it on us in our baptism. Help us keep it pure and use it properly, in prayer and praise. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Lord our Creator and Redeemer, You created six days for work and the seventh to enjoy Your holy rest. Help us use the Lord's day to rest in You by hearing and growing in Your Word and Sacraments of grace. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Father of all families, help all parents bring up their children to love and honour You, and build our children's love for and obedience of their parents and all in rightful authority. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Lord of life, build respect among all people for the world and life You create. Let us do nothing to hurt or harm our neighbour in any way, but move us to help in times of need. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

O Father, Your Son, the great Bridegroom of the church, has established marriage and continue to bless it for our good. Give us grace to lead a pure and truth-filled life with others, and help those who are married to remain faithful to each other with patience and forgiveness. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, You supply the things we need for daily life and the work by which we obtain them. Help us to contribute to each other's well-being by sharing our possessions with those in need. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

O God, Friend of sinners, prevent us from doing anything to damage our neighbour's reputation. Make us more ready to forgive than to judge, and keep us from angry outbursts and malicious talk. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Dear Father, bless us with contentment in all that You have given us. Make us good stewards of all Your gifts, and give us a generous and joyful heart in serving our neighbour. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Today we especially ask Your blessing on those in particular need, including *(add names)* and others we now name silently in our hearts *(brief silence)*. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer, that all we ask is according to Your will and purpose for us, through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING GREETING & BLESSING

The Lord be with you:

And also with you;

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit + be with you all. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

"The Lamb, The Lamb"

LSB # 547 3 VERSES

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Welcome & Announcements

Let us go forth in peace and joy, serving our Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

REV. TODD HOEFFS

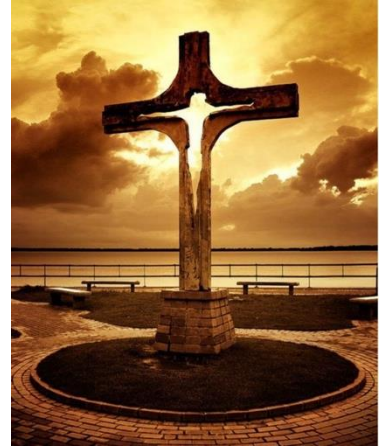
LENT 2

Scripture: Mark 8

February 28, 2021

The cross of Jesus shapes our vision and outlook into the life around us.
Or it SHOULD.

Like a lens, the cross creates a unique window by which we see out in to the world in a Christ-like manner of love and mercy, [considering the image on the sermon slide today, → Jesus' cut out body on a metal cross hoisted up against a landscape backdrop Vividly places before us the view of our world through His crucifixion.]



In my art teaching days, I used a drawing technique to get kids to view objects in a less preconceived way. They'd each get a sheet of paper and a pencil with a large dish towel (tea cloth) over their hand and paper with only the end of the pencil sticking out through a small hole in the towel. I had the students fix their eyes on the still life objects in the middle of the art room and draw as their eyes trace the shapes and objects. WITH OUT LOOKING AT WHAT THEY WERE DRAWING! It was hard and unusual, but became fun and exciting to see what they could create without looking at the paper. It breaks them of trying to COPY what they are and OBSERVE what they see, and the outcome of the drawing proved how observant they could be [even if it wasn't perfect].

Fixing our eyes upon the cross shapes our view of God and our life before Him.

Looking at life around us through the cross shapes our view of other people.

Crosses mean so much to so many people.

Crosses are decorative.

Crosses are instruments of torture.

Crosses mark tombstones,

Or the occasional hospital building

There's the Red Cross

Churches are flanked with crosses set upon the bright blue sky

But the message of the cross,

The purpose of the cross

That's the part that's most often missing or neglected.

The idea of carrying a cross must've seemed crazy when Jesus talked about it.

Criminals died on crosses.

A dark, yet bold image of certain excruciating death!

Cruel and brutal, crosses incited fear and compliance to Roman rule.

When Jesus says He will suffer, BE CRUCIFIED and rise from the dead on the 3rd Day –

AND that ANY ONE who wished to follow Him will also **carry the cross**

this is very jarring news. FEARFUL NEWS.

Jesus is inviting us to die before we live. If we want to be His people.

Sounds a bit drastic, even counter productive.

Jesus represents this new movement of mercy and teaching and sacrifice.

Those who see Jesus as being the GREAT MESSIAH OF GOD in their midst find this prediction of death and cross carrying as defeatist.

Jesus' followers crave security, protection, restoring Israel to its former glimmering glory.

Following Jesus is not about the elimination of risks, the preservation of glory, and the ability to control. Peter is really grappling with this.

Trying to stop Jesus' plan wins Peter a Satanic title.

Those who are not FOR Jesus stand AGAINST Him.

Don't misunderstand though.

This ISN'T about living life on the lookout for wooden crosses you can start carrying.

Like repentance, it's not as much about DOING as it is about BEING.

It's in the heart, our attitude, our inner selves and the way we VIEW things.

Jesus is asking each of us to live with the risk that a life of grace and mercy creates.

To abandon love to our lives and relinquish control to God.

That's what Jesus is doing. He expects nothing less of His followers.

And gives nothing less to those He's called.

The way of Christ and His cross speaks loudly that our life is not our own.

It belongs to our Lord. Our life is not just about us.

It's about God & Who He places into our life, those crossing our paths.

There's great freedom in knowing this.

We are free to be fully alive.

We are free to live without fear.

We are free to look at people we encounter through the lens of Jesus' cross.

We are free to share what's been shared with us.

Through self denial our falling down our daily dying which becomes a rising up, where losing is saving, and death is resurrection.

Mark wrote this Gospel account about 5-8 years after our Lord ascended into Heaven.

Crucifixions were still a vivid reality for any enemy of Rome.

Mark's readers knew crucifixions all too well.

They had eyewitnesses telling them exactly what happened that Friday in Jerusalem.

Following Jesus is not easy but it's life changing.

ALL who run after Jesus must forget the self, carry the cross, and follow." (Mark 8:34).

This is confusing at times.

Sometimes we talk about the unpleasant things in life as being

"the cross" that we have to bear.

But Jesus is speaking here of –

any time you suffer anxiety or trouble or hatred or loss or embarrassment

or anything negative

BECAUSE you are HIS BROTHER OR SISTER IN THE FAITH –

that is bearing the cross.

This is choosing to withstand those unpleasant things because we belong to Jesus.

And by not letting those negative things divert us from witnessing this Gospel message.

Other things

like poor health, an unfulfilling job, family turmoil,

Stress, aggravation, anxiety,

those aren't in and of themselves the same as carrying the cross.

These life issues are the side effect of living in a sinful world.

Everyone has those problems.

They're not uniquely Christian.

They do however test us whether or not to remain firm in our faith.

Pain will cause us to choose Christ or a quick"er" fix.

But, dealing with the stresses of life & carrying our cross as Christians

will give us over to the power of the Holy Spirit

whereby we either trust in our Lord or

trust...

something else.....

It tests our confidence in God's love

to the extent that we question whether he really does care what's happening in our lives.

Yes, carrying the cross can be difficult and painful.

What if bearing a cross means

we're suddenly drawn completely into the moment when God,

in his grace,

calls us to walk with Jesus

and to follow the harder path

that means endurance and commitment and long-suffering

as we face up to being his disciples in our world today?

What if bearing a cross means we're drawn away from our own plans

at the most *inconvenient time*

to help others with their crosses

and bring God's grace into the lives of the people

we connect with in our corner of the world?

What if bearing a cross means we're pulled out of the shadows

and given an *uncomfortable load* (as crosses tend to be)

that we prefer not to carry –

made to stand out

and be different

because our message or beliefs or values

are different to those around us

or we're given a task that we think others can do better?

Cross bearing means doing something that *I don't particularly want to do*

because it frightens me –

because ministry and service to others will confront us and challenge us

and stretch us beyond what we call 'normal'.

It's this cross of grace and unselfish love that we find the hardest to carry.

Because it means understanding other's life situation

And helping them see it through the image of Christ crucified.

Bearing Jesus cross means dying.

Jesus got His hands and feet nailed down to it.

And we worry we can't measure up. And the good news is, we can't.

Nor do we have to.

JESUS DID. HE DIED in your place.

He died in the world's place.

It is finished.

So with the cross you carry you know how the story ends.

In death, in suffering, in trouble, comes life, freedom and hope.

Make no mistake about it,

Jesus is calling all of His people into a radically different life,

a life of change, of renewal,

of turning around and going in the opposite direction you had thought you'd go.

Sacrifice and discipleship, commitment and the Gospel all go together.

To truly live, to live in Jesus,

for that Good News to really transform you, the old self must die.

Be crucified daily. Drowned out in a watery, baptismal death.

And so, discipleship means we follow a Lord,

a crucified Lord, a Lord Who made us, redeems us and calls us His own.

Who knows what carrying the cross and following Jesus will mean for us in the future?

Where will this journey take you and me in the next five, ten or twenty years?

Where will it take the church, this congregation, this Lutheran Church Canada synod wide body?

When we, the church, the body of Christ in the world,

take up our cross in the mission and ministry that God's given us,

it's a challenging experience.

Crosses were never made to be comfortable in the past and neither will they be comfortable in the future.

It involves re-evaluating and maybe stepping outside customs and traditions and structures that have lost their meaning and have become roadblocks to people hearing and taking to heart the freeing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The church is called to look again at why she exists and for what purpose.

If she is the body of Christ in the world,

if the Word and Sacraments are truly the means of grace

which change lives in miraculous ways,

then the Holy Spirit will continually work through these avenues to ensure the cross never loses its prominence.

People have a starved spiritual life,

so starved many barely realize they have it.

Reaching people can be an overwhelming thought.

But our Lord moves our hands and feet in our daily callings to the direction we need to go,

meeting the needs of people He would have us as we present the Gospel.

All of this, too, involves bearing the cross.

Looking at the cross.

Looking at life through the cross.

And we proclaim Jesus' cross and death until He comes again

By looking forward to sharing in Jesus' Holy Communion feast soon.

This makes His death come alive in our lives,

where His presence not only fills us

but moves us to trust Him more and more.

To trust in the transformative power of His cross.

How we see God.

How we see ourselves.

How we see others.

How others see themselves as only living in their dying.

And like that cut out image of Jesus,

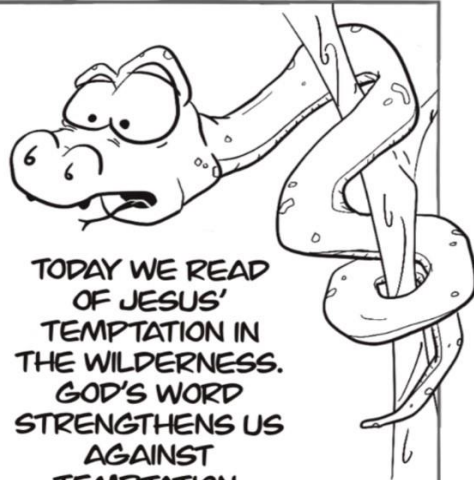
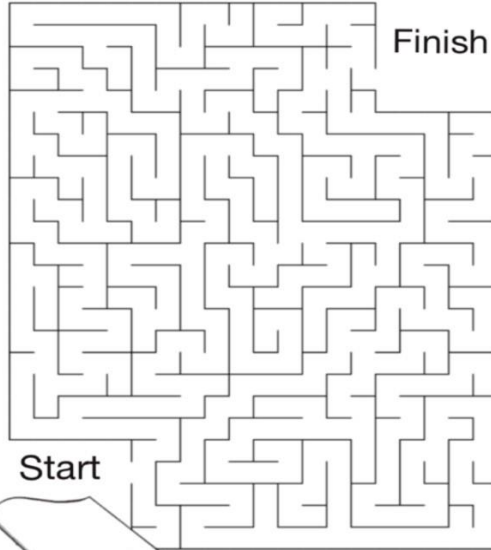
Any we and all people see the world in need of a Saviour

Through the Saviour's cross.

Amen.



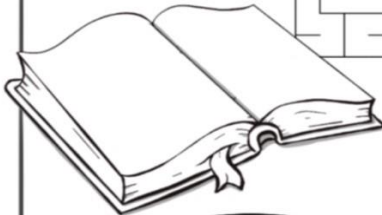
Kids Lectionary Learning
First Sunday in Lent



TODAY WE READ
OF JESUS'
TEMPTATION IN
THE WILDERNESS.
GOD'S WORD
STRENGTHENS US
AGAINST
TEMPTATION.

WORD SEARCH

MINISTERING FORTY
ANGELS DAYS
SATAN WILDERNESS
TEMPTED SPIRIT
ANIMALS JESUS



WRITE OR
DRAW 2 THINGS YOU CAN
PRAY FOR THIS WEEK?

Q R S K U W G P J N V G N V B
D W Y P Z Z Z T E B S O Q Q Z
A Q Y O I W N G S E W O B Q S
Y M Z N P R I W U Z R D D D X
S G R M O H I L S X Q S H I U
V B Y V I Z S T D L I T X S F
O Y M T H N Q W X E R G V A M
Q R Q E F A I T B C R N Z T B
X Z B M F R N S K A C N A A W
E J N P Y G J I T V N O E N W
Q F J T L C M B M E D G L S L
U O V E E L E I T A R C E R S
X R O D E P J A Q X L I Q L N
H T Z D V K Z K Q I B S N K S
G Y Q V O Y F G S X F S I G L



*"Blessed is the man who
remains steadfast under trial."*

- James 1:12 (ESV)

