

FEBRUARY 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT



Jesus conquers evil.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	First sin and its punishment
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Adam and Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Don't worship idols
Thursday	Ephesians 6:10-17	The whole armor of God
Friday	Hebrews 2:5-18	Exaltation through humiliation
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Matthew 4:10-11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, it is difficult to face the evil within and around us. Thank you for facing and conquering the power of sin through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of steadfast love and mercy, we thank you for this meal and all that you do to care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you from all evil and give you peace through Jesus Christ.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Lord, throughout
These Forty Days*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you are going through difficult times, who supports you?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good and bad times? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 4:1-11.

After his baptism, Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness, a place of testing and identity formation. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is adamant and without compromise. We, on the other hand, find it easy to compromise goodness in the presence of evil by tolerating comfort over justice, worship of false gods, and powers that hurt others without grieving us. In a world where little compromises lead to major sins and disappointments, it is good to know that our Savior faced down evil and won. Evil is real and does real damage to God's creation, including human beings and their relationships. The good news is that as fallible and susceptible as we are to evil, God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

Discuss: How does Jesus' victory over Satan give you strength and courage to live each day?

Pray: **Eternal God, you who never give up on us and always oppose evil, we thank you for your steadfast love and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. Decorate an Almsgiving Box to collect money for those in need during Lent. Place the box in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. This week rather than eating out, place money that you might have spent in the box to give to others.

Pray: **Loving God, thank you for giving us daily bread. Help us to give to others so that they may also be given daily bread. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org