

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus faces temptation and 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 15:1-11	Christ was raised to life
Thursday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Love wipes away many sins
Friday	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear one another's burdens
Saturday	Psalm 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 safe from evil.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

When We Are Tested



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:

- Why is it sometimes difficult to talk about evil and sin?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good times 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 that tests one's true character. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and the misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is without compromise. We, on the other hand, can 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 can lead to major wrongs and injury to others, 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, in the end, it does not and cannot win. God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

Discuss: What can we learn from Jesus' response to temptation?

Pray: Eternal God, you who never give up on us and oppose every 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 and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is afraid to try something for fear of making a mistake?



RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

To establish a ritual during Lent, make a Lenten Candle Cross. Place six purple tea-light or votive candles in the shape of a cross, using a white seventh candle for the center. Each week, a candle will be lit during prayer time in your home. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) will be introduced as a way to pray. This first week in Lent represents "A" for Adoration, meaning love, respect, and worship. [Light one purple candle]

Pray: Dear God, we praise your name and worship you. I praise you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.