



March 1, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



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MERCY IN TEMPTATION

In this service for Lent in our *In View of God's Mercy* series, we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we recall that in the midst of temptation, our merciful God provides us with a way out through Christ, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin.

Opening Sentences

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray.

People: Lead us not into temptation.

Pastor: We have turned every one to his own way.

People: Lead us not into temptation.

Pastor: The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

People: Deliver us from evil.

Pastor: But He was wounded for our transgressions.

People: Deliver us from evil.

Pastor: He was crushed for our iniquities.

People: Deliver us from evil.

Pastor: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace.

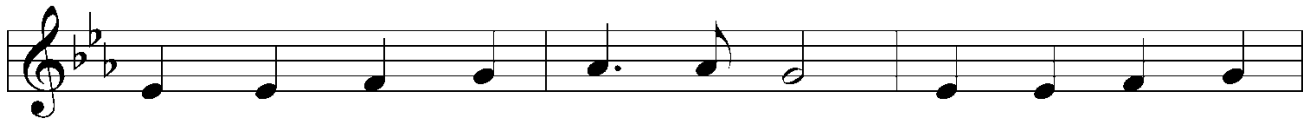
People: Deliver us from evil.

Pastor: And with His stripes we are healed.

People: Amen.

Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” Hymn 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: “Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). We confess to God that we have often fallen into temptation and succumbed to sin.

People: **Holy God, we acknowledge our guilt before you. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. When tempted by the evil one, we have desired evil. Our sinful appetites have been attracted to what you forbid. We have submitted to our lusts and succumbed to temptation. Forgive our transgression and lead us from temptation. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

Pastor: Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "God is faithful" and "he will provide the way of escape" from temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and renews a right spirit within you. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in view of your mercy. We are surrounded by all kinds of temptations to sin. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that we resist temptation and instead do what pleases you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

The New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,

but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Hymn

"O Christ, You Walked the Road" Hymn 424



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

The Message

The Prayers

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who are prone to wander into sin because of the temptations of the evil one.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When we face the temptations of the devil—who entices us to doubt and deny your true Word—keep our eyes on Jesus who conquered Satan in the wilderness and on the cross.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When we face the temptations of the flesh—our sinful appetites and lusts—keep our eyes on Jesus who lived purely as our substitute and Savior.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When we face the temptations of the world—our sinful pride and the quest for more possessions—keep our eyes on Jesus who provides for all we need in this life and the life to come.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: We praise you that you are faithful and that with every temptation you provide a way of escape.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Fill us with your Spirit so that we will say no to sin and yes to righteousness.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.

People: **Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.**

Pastor: All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who triumphed over temptation.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**C 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

The Blessing

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: May the merciful God, who is faithful and provides the way of escape from temptation and sin, empower you to live according to His good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

People: Amen.

Hymn

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (422)



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!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

Join us next week in our *In View of God's Mercy* series for Lent, as we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we recall that no life is without suffering, but our sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed to us in Jesus by God's great mercy.

Lenten Wednesday Services for this year:

Wednesday, 3/8 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm ,

Wednesday, 3/15 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm.

Wednesday, 3/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

Wednesday, 3/29 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm