**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 26, 2023**



*“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”*

*(Matthew 4:1)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us

**P: He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness**

L: We have seen the glory of the son of God

**P: He ate nothing and was starving**

L: Though he was God, he laid aside his divinity

**P: He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave**

L: Therefore, God exalted his name above every name

**P: We confess that Christ Jesus is Lord**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “You Are My All in All”

**You are my Strength when I am weak**

**You are the Treasure that I seek**

**You are my All in all**

**Seeking You as a precious Jewel**

**Lord to give up I’d be a fool**

**You are my All in all**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**Worthy is Your Name**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**Worthy is Your Name**

**Taking my cross my sin my shame**

**Rising again I praise Your Name**

**You are my All in all**

**When I fall down You lift me up**

**When I am dry You fill my cup**

**You are my All in all**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**Worthy is Your Name**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**Worthy is Your Name**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan, make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations. As thou know their several infirmities, let each one find you mighty to save. Let us lament our failures, but find perfect remission and forgiveness in our God of mercy, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, and taught us to pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**Congregational Reading:**

**P:** **Lord, I believe in your life and your suffering. I worship you, I long for you as my last thought. I praise you as my constant helper, and call on you as my loving protector. Guide me by your wisdom, correct me with your justice, comfort me with your mercy, protect me with your power. I offer you my thoughts, that they may be fixed on you. I offer my words, to have you as their theme. I offer you my actions, to reflect my love for you. I offer you my sufferings, to be endured for your greater glory. Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weakness and to grow stronger in Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Amazing Grace” #85 (vv.1-5)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound**

**That saved a wretch like me**

**I once was lost, but now am found**

**Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear**

**And grace my fears relieved**

**How precious did that grace appear**

**The hour I first believed**

**The Lord has promised good to me**

**His word my hope secures**

**He will my share and portion be**

**As long as life endures**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares**

**I have already come**

**‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far**

**And grace will lead me home**

**When we’ve been there, ten thousand years**

**Bright shining as the sun**

**We’ve no less days, to sing God’s praise**

**Than when we first begun**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 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, ‘One does 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 placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying 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, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do 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 splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 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.

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “There is a Redeemer” #246 (vv.1-3)

**There is a Redeemer Jesus, God's own Son**

**Precious Lamb of God**

**Messiah, Holy One**

**Thank You, O my Father**

**For giving us Your Son**

**And leaving Your Spirit till**

**The work on earth is done**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names**

**Precious Lamb of God, Messiah**

**O for sinners slain**

**Thank You, O my Father**

**For giving us Your Son**

**And leaving Your Spirit till**

**The work on earth is done**

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face**

**There I'll serve my King forever**

**In that holy place**

**Thank You, O my Father**

**For giving us Your Son**

**And leaving Your Spirit till**

**The work on earth is done**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The strength of God can carry us through every temptation. We trust in God to provide, even when we see no way. We give, as a way to strengthen our faith. Give as you have been given, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart” #59 (vv.1-2,5)

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart**

**Rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**Your festal banner wave on high**

**The cross of Christ your King**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**With all the angel choirs**

**With all the saints on earth**

**Pour out the strains of joy and bliss**

**True rapture, noblest mirth!**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**Praise God, who reigns on high**

**The Lord whom we adore**

**The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

**One God forevermore**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**\*Benediction**

L: May the God of grace go with you on this Lenten journey. May the strength of Christ dwell within you in your wilderness. May the Spirit of God carry you as you struggle. Confessing God in trial, go in peace to love and serve. Amen.