

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA**

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

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**Prayer of the Day**

Leader: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Cong.: Amen.**

**The First Reading: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## **The Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned —  
<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

## **The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Leader: Holy God, lead your church on earth to do your will and strive for your kingdom. Teach us your ways and increase our understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Show us how to care for your creation, and teach us to be good stewards of the gifts you have given into our keeping. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give your wisdom to the leaders of the nations. Nourish the world in your Word of life, and lead us to be your ministers of mercy to the poor and the hungry. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Come to the aid of your people in times of distress, and let your peace abide with all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Especially, we pray, with all those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts. (P A U S E) Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Guide all those preparing for baptism and the baptized of this whole assembly, that we may grow toward living fully into your promise of everlasting life. Lead us to embrace the Holy Scriptures, keep sacred your holy supper, and live out your will for all creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: Hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Leader: Be with us in our Lenten journeys, and inspire us by the witness of the saints who walked faithfully and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Cong.: Amen.**

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