

February 22, 2026

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Julesburg, CO

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The Pathlight

*Your Word Is A Lamp To My Feet
and a Light To My Path.
PS 119:105*

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You are Heard

“And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’” Luke 18:39

Have you ever had someone ask you to do something, and you didn't listen or you forgot? A parent? A friend? A sibling? A teacher? A coach? A boss? Or have you ever asked someone to do something for you, and they didn't listen to you or at best forgot?

Sometimes when people don't listen to what we're saying, in order to get them to hear us, we might speak louder or even shout what we want to say. Joline and I have two daughters and there were plenty of times when it was necessary to speak louder or even shout at them because we wanted to keep them safe. "Look for cars when you cross the street!!!!!!!!!" The examples go on and on.

In Luke's Gospel, the blind beggar cried out to Jesus because he *wanted* Him. When the people tried to keep him quiet, he cried out even louder. This blind beggar had not seen Jesus with his eyes, but he had heard about Him and believed in Him. Sometimes you hear faith described as "believing without seeing." In this case, that is certainly a fitting description. And what did he want from Jesus? Mercy..... Sometimes mercy is described as "not getting what we deserve."

We haven't seen Jesus with our physical eyes either, but all the same, we ask Him to be merciful to us as well. Sometimes when we are confessing our sins, we say the same words of the tax collector, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). We don't deserve God's forgiveness because we are sinners. No, we deserve death and damnation. God would be just and right in giving us that. Instead, God in His mercy gives us Jesus to be the atonement for our sins, sacrificing His life voluntarily on the cross for us, not giving us what we deserve. God gave His justice, what we deserve, to Jesus. Jesus suffered death and damnation for us.

In faith, gifted to us by the Holy Spirit, we receive God's mercy in Christ Jesus. In faith in Jesus' work for us, we don't get eternal death and damnation, we get heaven and eternal life. Thanks be to God!

Now in our daily living, we can cry out in prayer to God for healing, for help in struggles, for whatever we need. And no matter how soft spoken we are, we know He hears us, and answers according to His good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!!!

Pastor Christensen

Lutheran Service Book
Order of Worship

HYMN #418 “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LITURGY Divine Service Setting Four pg. 203

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

INTROIT (see bulletin insert)

KYRIE pg. 204

SALUTATION and COLLECT pg. 205

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 3:1-21

EPISTLE: Romans 5:12-19

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

APOSTLES’ CREED pg. 207

HYMN #718 “Jesus, Lead Thou On”

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER pg.209

BENEDICAMUS pg. 212

HYMN #727 “On Eagles’ Wings”

SILENT PRAYER

Servants today

St. Paul

Organist- Jeanie Boehm

Ushers/Greeters-Brian Boehm/Chuck Juhl

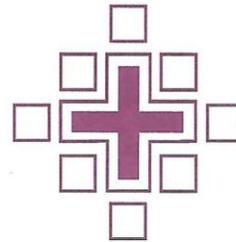
Zion

Organist- Jeanie Boehm

Ushers/Greeters-Mark & Shelle, Altar Guild-Shelle & Jodi

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 2026



INTROIT *Ps. 99:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 99:9*

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy | mountain;*
for the LORD our God is | holy!

The LORD reigns; let the peoples | tremble!*

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the | earth quake!

The LORD is great in | Zion;*

he is exalted over all the | peoples.

Let them praise your great and | awesome name!*

Ho- | ly is he!

The King in his might loves | justice.*

You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness
in | Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his | footstool!*

Ho- | ly is he!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy | mountain;*

for the LORD our God is | holy!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Ps. 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

DAILY READINGS

February 15: Job 11:1–20; John 5:19–29; **16:** Job 12:1–6, 12–15; John 5:30–47; **17:** Job 13:1–12; John 6:1–21; **18:** Gen. 1:1–19; Mark 1:1–13; **19:** Gen. 1:20–2:3; Mark 1:14–28; **20:** Gen. 2:4–25; Mark 1:29–45; **21:** Gen. 3:1–24; Mark 2:1–17.

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**Old Testament Reading:
Exodus 24:8–18**

⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16–21

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he

received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1–9

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”



St. Paul

Feb.23-9:00AM-Bible Study

Feb.25-7:00PM-Lent Service-at Big Springs

Servants for Lenten-Jeanie Boehm/Mark & Shelle/Jodi & Shelle

**March 1-8:00AM-Bible Study
9:00AM-Worship Service**

Servants for Worship Service-David Orth/Craig Nicolaus/Gail Nicolaus

Zion

Feb.25-7:00PM-Lent Service at Big Springs

Servants for Lenten-Jeanie Boehm/Mark & Shelle/Jodi & Shelle

**March 1-10:00AM-Sunday School
11:00AM-Worship Service**

Servants for Worship Service- Dayton & Jodi/Tonia & Danielle/Gail Nicolaus

A HUGE THANK YOU to the members of St. Paul and Zion congregations who contributed to the Mite Box on February 1 and February 8. A total of \$224.00 was collected for the LWML Mission Projects. May God bless your gifts and the projects chosen at the Rocky Mountain District LWML Convention June, 2024..

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS.....THRIVENT MEMBERS please direct your “2025 CHOICE DOLLARS” before they expire on March 31, 2026. There are two simple ways to direct these Dollars by either going to www.thriventchoice.com or calling 1-800-847-4836 and say “Choice Dollars” at automation. **REMEMBER, YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE FOR THE PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER.** Thank you for considering St. Paul Lutheran Church, Julesburg, CO when making your donation



**February 23-Kerri Long, Scott Luft,
Tara Lanckriet**

February 24-Kristi Kim



Lenten Scripture Challenge



First Sunday in Lent

A Study for Adults

As we begin the season of Lent, we reflect on our Lord's temptation in the wilderness. Set aside some quiet time and test your biblical knowledge. These questions are designed to stretch your memory and deepen your understanding of Christ's victory for us.

Part I – Wilderness Patterns

1. Match each event with the correct number of years or days:

- A. Israel's wandering after the Exodus _____
- B. Moses on Mount Sinai _____
- C. Elijah's journey to Horeb _____
- D. Jesus' temptation in the wilderness _____
- E. The rain during Noah's flood _____

- 1. 40 days and 40 nights
- 2. 40 years
- 3. 40 days
- 4. 40 days and 40 nights
- 5. 40 days

Part II – Under Pressure

- 2. When tempted in the wilderness, from which Old Testament book did Jesus quote all three times? _____
 - 3. What section of the Old Testament does that book belong to? _____
(Law / Prophets / Writings)
-

Part III – Reverse the Failure

4. Identify the earlier biblical account that parallels each temptation:

- Hunger and forbidden food: _____
- Testing God’s protection: _____
- Worshiping something other than God: _____

5. Who failed in each of those earlier accounts?

Part IV – The Deeper Issue

6. What common spiritual issue lies beneath all three temptations of Jesus Christ?

Part V – Identity and Trust

7. At Jesus’ baptism, what title was declared from heaven?
 8. Why would the tempter begin with the words, “If you are the Son of God...”?
-

Part VI – The Faithful Son

Complete the comparison:

Israel in the Wilderness	Jesus in the Wilderness
Complained about bread	_____
Tested the Lord	_____
Turned to idolatry	_____

Take your time. Use your Bible if needed. Reflect prayerfully. Then turn the page for the answers.

Lenten Scripture Challenge – Answer Page\Part I – Wilderness Patterns

- A – 2 (40 years)
- B – 4 (40 days and 40 nights)
- C – 5 (40 days)
- D – 3 (40 days)
- E – 1 (40 days and 40 nights)

The repeated “40” throughout Scripture signals testing, preparation, repentance, and renewal.

Part II – Under Pressure

- 2. Jesus quoted from the Book of Deuteronomy.
- 3. It belongs to the Law (Torah).

All three responses to temptation come from Deuteronomy (chapters 6–8), showing that Jesus stands where Israel once stood — yet remains faithful.

Part III – Reverse the Failure

Hunger and forbidden food: Adam and Eve in Genesis 3
Testing God’s protection: Israel at Massah (Exodus 17)
Worshipping something other than God: The golden calf (Exodus 32)

Adam failed in a garden of abundance. Israel failed in the wilderness. Christ remains obedient in the wilderness.

Part IV – The Deeper Issue

- 6. The common issue is trust — trusting the Father’s Word and will above physical need, public display, or earthly power.

Part V – Identity and Trust

- 7. “You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”
- 8. The temptation strikes at identity. If Jesus doubts who He is, He may doubt the Father’s Word. The same tactic is often used against us.

Part VI – The Faithful Son

Israel in the Wilderness Jesus in the Wilderness

Complained about bread	Trusted the Father’s provision
Tested the Lord	Refused to test God
Turned to idolatry	Worshipped God alone

Lenten Reflection: Where Israel failed, Christ obeyed. His victory in the wilderness is not only an example — it is our salvation. As we journey through Lent, we walk with the One who overcame temptation on our behalf. Blessed Lent.



“When the Wilderness Comes”

The Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent brings us face to face with a sobering truth: the Spirit leads Jesus Christ into the wilderness (Luke 4:1–13). This may surprise us. We often imagine that when we are close to God, life should feel stable, clear, and strong. Yet immediately after His baptism — after the Father declared, “You are My beloved Son” — Jesus is led into testing.

Lent begins here: not with comfort, but with wilderness.

The wilderness in Scripture is never just a place on a map. It is the place where illusions fall away. It is where hunger is felt, weakness is exposed, and distractions disappear. In everyday life, our wilderness may look different. It may be a medical diagnosis. A strained marriage. Financial pressure. Loneliness. A crisis of identity. A season of waiting.

And sometimes, like Jesus, we do not wander into it — we are led there.

The Temptation Beneath the Temptations

After forty days of fasting, Jesus is tempted:

- Turn stones into bread.
- Throw Yourself down and force God to protect You.
- Take power without the cross.

On the surface, these temptations address hunger, safety, and authority. But underneath them all is a deeper question:

Can the Father be trusted?

“Man shall not live by bread alone.”

“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”

“You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”

Each response comes from the Book of Deuteronomy — words first spoken to Israel in their own wilderness. Where Israel doubted, Jesus trusts. Where Israel failed, Jesus stands firm.

And this matters profoundly for us.

Our Everyday Wilderness

In our daily lives, the temptations may not sound dramatic. They often whisper instead of shout:

- “Take control — you can’t rely on God for this.”
- “Cut the corner — everyone else does.”
- “Prove yourself.”
- “Secure your comfort first.”

We are tempted to believe that our survival depends entirely on us. That security must be engineered. That identity must be achieved. That power must be grasped.

But Lent reminds us: our life does not come from bread alone — not from salary, success, reputation, or control. Our life comes from the Word of God.

The Comfort of Christ’s Obedience

This account is not merely an example for us to try harder. It is first and foremost good news. Jesus does what Adam did not do. Jesus does what Israel did not do. Jesus does what we do not do. He remains faithful. His obedience in the wilderness is part of His saving work. He walks the path of testing in our place. He resists where we have yielded. And He goes on from the wilderness toward the cross — for us. Because He stood firm in the wilderness, we are forgiven when we fall in ours.

Strength for the Journey

Hebrews 4:15 tells us that we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way, yet without sin. That means when you feel the pull of anxiety, compromise, resentment, or despair — you are not alone. Christ understands. And more than that, He intercedes for you.

Lent invites us not to prove our strength, but to cling to His.

When the wilderness comes — and it will — we cling to the Word. We cling to our baptismal identity as beloved children of God. We cling to Christ, who has already overcome.

The wilderness is real. But so is the victory.

And the One who overcame it walks with you still.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, when we are led into seasons of testing, teach us to trust Your Word. Guard us from doubt, strengthen us in weakness, and remind us that Your victory is our salvation. Walk with us through every wilderness until we reach the joy of Easter. Amen.



First
Sunday
in Lent

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