

**"Who Is Number One
in Your Life?"**

First Sunday in Lent 2021



***St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
Little Chute, WI***

www.stlukeslittlechute.com

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Sunday, February 21, 2021

Today's Order of Service has been printed out in its entirety in this service folder. Printed and recorded under OneLicense.net #A-717066

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FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

The call to sinners in Lent is a serious call to struggle. While we throw out and leave behind the trivial outward Roman type practices of Lent, let's not throw out repentance in the process. Let's not replace the trivial externals with something even worse: assurances that we are so forgiven that we need not bother anymore with repentance.

Greeting by the minister

Please Stand

OPENING DIALOGUE:

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips.

THE PRAYER FOR GRACE:

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:12-15

Make no mistake about it: the life of Christ for us was along a hard and painful road. He begins his earthly ministry and his journey to the cross by a time of loneliness and struggle in the desert. So intense is the struggle that the angels attend him! That's a mystery deep and profound. What possible help could they be? Nevertheless there it is: as in Gethsemane, they do not come to lessen his struggle but to help him in some way endure it or continue in it. Given the seriousness with which he begins his journey to the cross, you can be sure that his call to repentance was not trite or cute or trivial. The good news is that he was victorious in the struggle, and that he won it for us. Now he calls us into his kingdom. Pass through the gate of repentance to the good news Lent announces, and then go back into the desert to struggle against the foes of the devil, the world and your own flesh with him as your strength and support and with the holy angels as your companions. The alternative? A struggle outside of the kingdom with the fallen angel/destroyer as your guide and his doom as your future. gifts in service to one another to help them also prepare for his coming.

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,

¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Please Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 455

"Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"

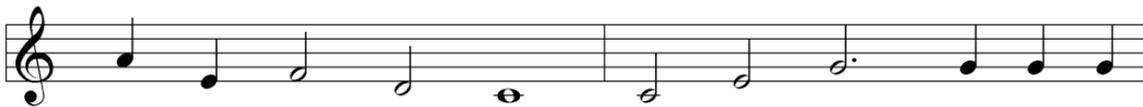
455 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you,
 2 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish,



O Chris - tians, lest the foe de - stroy you, For Sa - tan
 And keep them that they nev - er per - ish Whom you have



has de - signed your fall. Wield God's Word, a weap - on
 pur - chased with your blood. Let new life to us be



glo - rious; A - gainst each foe you'll be vic -
 giv - en That we may look to you in



to - rious; Our God will set you o'er them all.
 heav - en When - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell— Here is Im - man - u - el!
 Your Spir - it on us pour That we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield To Christ, our shield,
 Hearts o'er - flow - ing; And then shall we, From sin set free,



And we as con - qu'rors hold the field.
 Sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

SERMON: *based on Genesis 22:1-18*
“Who Is Number One in Your Life?!”

Perhaps you don't think that you have all that much to repent of or struggle against. Well, then think about the First Commandment. What do you love so much that it would be impossible to willingly and gladly give up if the Lord required it? Would you give up your son? Abraham got up early and went straight ahead to obey. Would you? When God has required you to give something up, some time, some friend, some money, some popularity, out of love and loyalty to his Word, did you do it? Did you do it gladly and willingly? If God would ask you now to give up house and home, wealth and position, all that you are and have, would you get up early and go straight to it? If he took these things away, would you complain about it? If you do not love God enough to give up your son for him, why should he give up his Son for you? But that's what he promises in the closing verses of the reading. The offspring, descended from Isaac, in whom we will really be blessed, deserves our all. We deserve nothing. How little he gets. How much he gives just to forgive the littleness of our heart's devotion. Everything is opposite and upside down of the way we would expect and the way we deserve. Do you still think you have nothing to repent of and that the struggle is easy?

- 22** *Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.*
- ² *Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”*
- ³ *Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.*
- ⁴ *On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.*
- ⁵ *He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”*
- ⁶ *Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,*
- ⁷ *Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”*
- ⁸ *Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.*
- ⁹ *When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.*
- ¹⁰ *Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.*
- ¹¹ *But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.*
- ¹² *“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”*
- ¹³ *Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.*

¹⁴ So Abraham called that place *The Lord Will Provide*. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time

¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Please Stand

PRAYERS:

Luther’s Morning Prayer (*in unison*)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The minister prepares the elements at the Lord’s Table.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Please Be Seated

The distribution hymn will not be sung today. Please read through the following verses while the sacrament is being distributed. Those partaking of the Lord's Supper, please follow the direction of the minister and the ushers.

200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

1 A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.

3 Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!

Please Stand

THE THANKSGIVING:

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING:

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 445 v1-2

“Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit”

445

Through Jesus' Blood and Merit



1 Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it I am at
 2 There's noth - ing that can sev - er Me from the



peace with God; What, then, can daunt my spir - it,
 love of God, No want, no pain what - ev - er,



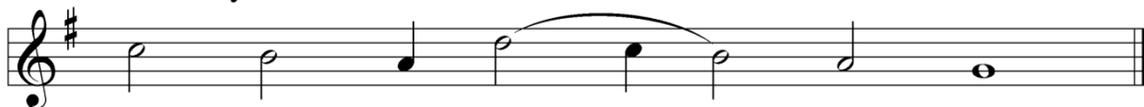
How - ev - er dark my road? My cour - age shall
 No fam - ine, dan - ger, sword. Though thou - sand foes



not fail me, For God is on my side;
 sur - round me, For slaugh - ter mark his sheep,



Though hell it - self as - sail me,
 They nev - er shall con - found me—



Its rage I may de - ride.
 The vic - t'ry I shall keep!

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ICH DANK DIR, LIEBER HERRE (76 76 D) *Musika Teutsch*, Nürnberg, 1532, alt.