

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, March 9, 2025**  
**St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Portland, OR**

**THE LESSONS: Deuteronomy 6:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;**  
**Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13**

**THE SERMON: “IS JESUS REALLY ... THE SON OF GOD?”**

**NARRATOR: This is the first Sunday in Lent. Do any of you have an idea what Lent is about?**

**MIA: Nope, no idea!**

**FAWN: I think Lent is supposed to be a time Christians can't eat chocolates or anything good.**

**LYLA: Oh, yeah! I remember that some of my friends who aren't Lutheran have to eat fish on Fridays and do a lot of extra things at church.**

**DANIEL: Pastor, what does Lent mean anyway? Doesn't it mean you borrowed something from someone, like they “lent” you something?**

**PASTOR: No, it doesn't mean that someone loaned you something. Actually, Lent is taken from an old, old English word “lencten” which meant “spring.” Later, British schools shortened the word to “lent” for the Spring semester and the church borrowed the term for the Spring season before Easter.**

**LYLA: “Too much information...”. Too much information**

**NARRATOR**: Okay, moving on... This skit is supposed to take the place of the Gospel reading and the Sermon; so, let's read the lesson from Luke. **FAWN**, will you read the first four verses of our lesson?

**FAWN**: Do I have to? I'm too nervous...

Well, okay... here goes... “ Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty days and nights in the wilderness he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry. What was the rest of that scripture, Daniel?

**DANIEL**: Well, the Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: ‘Since you're God's Son, command this stone to turn into bread.’ Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: ‘It takes more than bread to really live.’ ”

**MIA**: Wait a minute! Where was Jesus before he went into the wilderness? Does that have anything to do with the story?

**PASTOR**: I'm glad you asked. That's the trouble with our lessons. They don't always follow things in order. But, before Jesus went into the wilderness, he was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. And, as he was praying, the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove and a voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Because the Holy Spirit was in him, Jesus went into the desert to figure out what all of that meant...

**LYLA**: Too much information. Too much information.

**PASTOR**: Well, I'm just trying to answer the question...

**NARRATOR**: Moving on... what do you think the scripture is talking about?

**LYLA**: Well, obviously, Jesus was hungry because it says that he ate nothing for forty days and nights. I can't even go a couple of hours at the mall without being hungry. After all, I am growing teenager...

**NARRATOR**: But, what about the Devil? What do you think this is about?

**FAWN**: I think it means that the Devil is trying to trick Jesus into proving he's the Son of God. If Jesus could turn the rocks into bread, it would show the Devil that Jesus was actually like God.

**LYLA**: But, he didn't. Instead, the lesson said Jesus quoted the Bible by saying, "It takes more than bread to really live." What does that mean?

**FAWN**: I think it means that being happy isn't simply about having a full stomach or having things in your life. It's like eating a hot dog at the mall. After a while you're going to be hungry again or, if you get a iPad or a skateboard or something, you'll be happy for awhile but, eventually, you won't be happy. Jesus is telling the Devil, it takes more than things to really live."

**MIA**: Wow! That's deep... now, you're beginning to sound like Pastor...

**NARRATOR**: Okay... moving right along... Lyla, will you read verses 5 through 8?

**LYLA:** For the second test the Devil led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.” Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with scripture from Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and **ONLY** the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.” What does that mean, Pastor?

**PASTOR** (Pouting): You want me to answer? Are you sure I won’t give you **TOO MUCH INFORMATION?**

**MIA:** Okay, okay, we didn’t mean to hurt your feelings but what do you think that means?

**PASTOR:** Well, it’s really hard not to give you too much information on this. First, the Devil thinks he’s in control of the word because in Jesus’ time, the Romans were in power and they ruled with fear and cruelty. He tried to convince Jesus that he could give Jesus that kind of power. But, again, Jesus quoted the Bible, “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.” I think that Jesus was telling the Devil that fear and brute force are not how God works and to learn how God works you need to worship and serve God and others... Sorry for being so long-winded...

**NARRATOR:** That’s okay, Pastor... That’s a lot to think about. Okay, Daniel, can you read the rest of the lesson?

**DIANEL**: For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone’?” “Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s ALSO written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’” That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

**NARRATOR**: Now, I’m confused. What does that mean?

**MIA**: It’s pretty simple, isn’t it? If Jesus jumped off the top of the Temple or the Empire State Building, because he’s God’s Son, God is going to save him. That’s what it means.

**FAWN**: But, why did Jesus say, “Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God”? And, why did Luke end this lesson by saying, “The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.” It seems like there’s more to this story... Pastor?

**PASTOR**: Sorry, but this going to be a long, rambling answer... Although God could save Jesus if he was in danger, we know that God didn’t save Jesus from dying on the Cross on Good Friday. And, we know that before his crucifixion, the Devil found an opportunity to tempt Jesus, when he was praying in the Garden before he was arrested. Jesus was tempted to ask God to save him before finally praying, “Thy will, God, be done, not mine.”

**NARRATOR**: So, even though scripture said that God’s angels would save him, God allowed Jesus to die... Why?

**PASTOR:** You know that in ancient times people sacrificed animals to gain their gods' favor. Moses used that custom to have the Hebrew people realize that God would forgive them of any sins and year after year the Hebrew people went to the Temple to have their sins forgiven.

**LYLA:** But, in your sermons, you told us that the Temple was destroyed; so, how could they be forgiven if there was no Temple to perform the sacrifice?

**MIA:** Wait a minute! Isn't Jesus called "the Lamb of God?" Is there some connection?

**NARRATOR:** Well, Duh! Because Jesus is the Lamb of God, that means, when he died on the Cross, that was God's way of fulfilling the Temple sacrifice even if there wasn't a Temple. Jesus is the "Lamb of God" the alternate sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

**FAWN:** Well, to sum everything up, after Jesus was baptized by John and God said that Jesus was his beloved Son, Jesus went into the wilderness and the Devil tried to lure him away from trusting God by challenging him to change rocks into bread so he wouldn't be hungry.

**MIA:** Yeah, and then the Devil tried to get Jesus to look to the devil for power to control the world and people...

**LYLA:** And, finally, the Devil tried to "con" Jesus into having God rescue him from suffering and dying. But, because Jesus is the Son of God, his suffering and death were how God fulfilled

**Moses' way to forgive us from our sins that separate us from God.**

**NARRATOR: So, Pastor, I guess we don't need your long-winded answers because we know God's answer is simple. God forgives us. God loves us. And, we don't have to do anything because God did it all. That's why we say it's "Amazing Grace" ...**

**JAYCE plays thru first**

**Mia sings first and second verses**

**Congregation joins verses 3 thru 4**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm 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

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
We have already come  
'Twas grace that brought us safe thus far  
And grace will lead us 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've first begun  
Than when we've first begun