

MARCH 1, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT



Wanting to be like God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	First sin and its punishment
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Adam and Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ was raised to life
Thursday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Love wipes away many sins
Friday	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear one another's burdens
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **Genesis 3:4-5 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, to know him as your Son, that we may live in the protection of your care, keeping us from all harm. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, just as you freely fed Adam and Eve in the garden, we thank you for providing us with the fruit of the earth today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be your hiding place; may God preserve you from all trouble and give you peace. (Psalm 32:7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

By Gracious Powers



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Is it easy or difficult to talk about sin? Explain.
- Why do you think sin is not a popular word in today's culture?
- Sin is often seen as rebellion. It is also about being deceived. Give examples of how people deceive themselves in today's world.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7.

The snake, part of God's own creation, was the first to create the temptation to move away from a trusting relationship with God. The world of sin is greater than what is experienced by humans. The snake gave a half-truth. Adam and Eve would learn the difference between good and evil; they just couldn't choose the good. The story of the "fall" is less about a fall from perfection and grace and more about a rebellion that wants to be like God. At some level, we may all want to be like God and to know the difference between good and evil. We tend to turn to our own prejudices, the preferred thinking that makes us most comfortable and most empowered. There are a lot of half-truths in our conversations, both public and private. A half-truth can be worse than a flat-out lie. Because it has the appearance of truth, it is more deceptive. We need a Savior who can turn us from our half-truth worlds that deceive and destroy life and relationships. We need Jesus. Can you think of a time when you heard a half-truth that deceived you? Explain.

Pray: **God of truth and grace, cleanse us from our sinful lives; give us glad hearts that know we have received grace upon grace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he responded with words from Scripture, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him'" (Matthew 4:10). One way of serving God is to care for your neighbor. How do you worship and serve God by caring for your neighbor?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

To establish a ritual during Lent, make a Lenten Candle Cross. Place six purple tea-light or votive candles in the shape of a cross, using a white seventh candle for the center. Each week, a candle will be lit during prayer time in your home. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) will be introduced as a way to pray. This first week in Lent represents "A" for Adoration, meaning love, respect, and worship. [Light a purple candle]
Pray: **Dear God, we praise your name and worship you. I praise you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



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