



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, March 10, 2019

The First Sunday in Lent

[Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#) *The LORD Brought Us Out*

[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#) *I Will*

[Romans 10:8b-13](#) *Everyone Who Calls on the Lord*

[Luke 4:1-13](#) *Forty Days, Tempted by the Devil*

Monday, March 11, 2019

[Psalm 17](#) *Deliver My Soul*

[I Chronicles 21:1-17](#) *David Tempted*

[I John 2:1-6](#) *An Advocate*

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

[Psalm 17](#) *Deliver My Soul*

[Zechariah 3:1-10](#) *Joshua Tempted*

[II Peter 2:4-21](#) *The Lord Knows How to Rescue*

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

[Psalm 17](#) *Deliver My Soul*

[Job 1:1-22](#) *Job Tempted*

[Luke 21:34-22:6](#) *Satan Entered Into Judas*

Thursday, March 14, 2019

[Psalm 27](#) *That I May Dwell*

[Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18](#) *Arise, Walk*

[Philippians 3:2-12](#) *I Press On*

Friday, March 15, 2019

[Psalm 27](#) *He Will Hide Me*

[Genesis 14:17-24](#) *Abram Blessed*

[Philippians 3:17-20](#) *Citizenship in Heaven*

Saturday, March 16, 2019

[Psalm 27](#) *He Will Hide Me*

[Psalm 118:26-29](#) *Blessed is He*

[Matthew 23:37-39](#) *How Often Would I Have Gathered*

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of March 10, 2019

Tempted

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 4:1-13](#)

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you," ¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

- What are you doing for Lent?
- "Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild / Forty days and forty nights, tempted and yet undefiled / The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise / For Christ, through whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed" (*Lutheran Hymn*)
- "The church can be accused, sometimes appropriately, of being irrelevant, pie-in-the-sky, out of touch. But in a world of noise, of Pinterest perfectionism, where we who are privileged can be sated with creature comforts and endless entertainment, I can't think of anything more honest, gritty, relevant, needed, and counter-culturally prophetic than Ash Wednesday, a day to face our vulnerability without a filter, without distraction, without Novocain. I need to be looked at and told by someone I love and who loves me that I'm going to die and so is everyone I know. It's a reality that I hate so much that I can never face it unless I am in a community that faces it together. And the mystery of the gospel is that if Jesus was next to me in the Ash Wednesday service, he would kneel and be marked by ashes as well. He too was marked for death, even from his birth. God himself took on vulnerability. He knew loss. He stared squarely at death. He raged. He wept. He died. Come Easter, we will celebrate his defeat of death through the resurrection. But, for now, in Lent, we make space to sit in the emotional complexity of the "already but not yet," the place that, if we are honest, we live in each day of our lives from the first to the last. We are vulnerable, each one of us — as vulnerable as a newborn baby held at a kneeling rail. It's horrific and unavoidable. But in this shadow of death, there is comfort — not the kind of comfort I manufacture, not false promises of safety and little pleasures, but the relentless, lasting comfort of a Great Shepherd who knows that we're as vulnerable as bleating sheep and calls us his beloved. (*Tish Harrison Warren*)
- I want you and I today to conclude that we are vulnerable to sin and death. If we are vulnerable to sin and death, then we are certainly vulnerable to temptation and falling.
- To note, it seems that we are told about three temptations but Jesus is tempted a lot more than that. For forty days. "when the devil had ended every temptation" (13)
- This text comes in Luke after his baptism by John the Baptist.
- Then a genealogy that ends with this right before Luke 4, "The son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God." ([Luke 3:38](#))
- That son of God (Adam) is purposely juxtaposed with this Son of God (Jesus, "you are my beloved Son; with you I am pleased", [Luke 3:22](#))
- "With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected / But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected / Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is" (*Lutheran Hymn*)
- Jesus is fighting and winning where we have lost. All the generations before Him fought the same battle and lost.
- This is so important because the temptation begins with, "If you are the Son of God" (3)
- Jesus is not tempted with adultery, etc., by Satan but with sins of identity.
- That "if" is a mighty big word.
- Strangely the identity is that, if you belong as a Son to God, there should be no suffering.
- Satan would do anything to keep Jesus from experiencing suffering and the vulnerability of being a mortal human being.
- If Jesus continues in the legacy of failure we are doomed.
- But He fights and He will continue to fight and He will win.
 - You are vulnerable (just look at your record and the record of your people). So flee temptation.
 - But when you can't, fight.
 - Look at Jesus, "the author and perfecter of our faith" ([Hebrews 12:2](#))
 - See your identity as being in alliance with the Son, not the counterfeit
 - Renounce, and turn