



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence. You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
March 9th, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

Aus der Tiefe

Herbst/Lang

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live. *(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

Holy, gracious and merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen**

*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

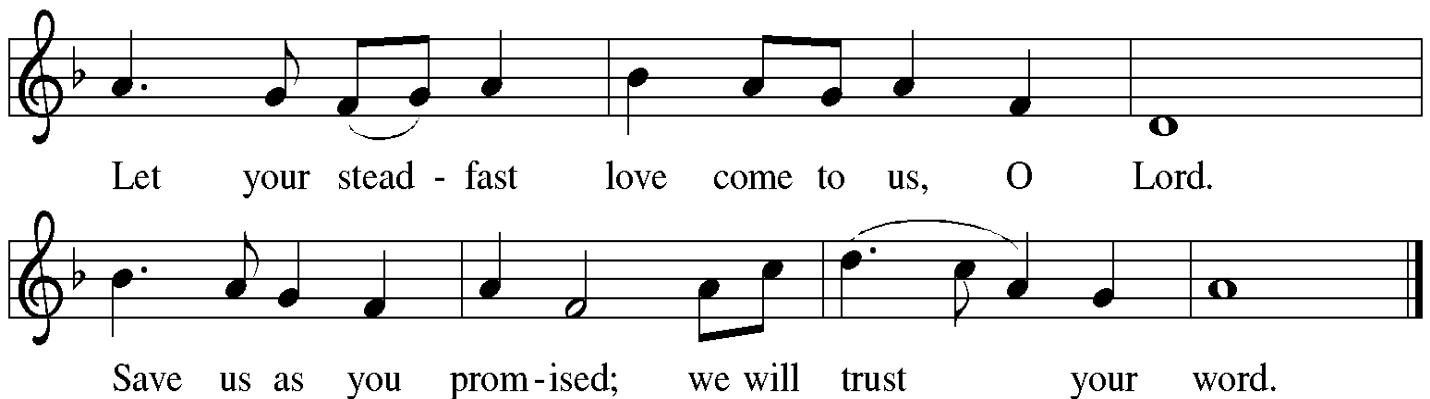
Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

LBW 319

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, you give us cause to celebrate because you deliver us like you delivered Israel from Egypt. Fill our hearts with thanksgiving for the mighty work of Jesus Christ for our salvation. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Almighty God, you not only shelter us in our homes and churches, you provide angels to guard us. Help us cling to you, and call upon you, all the days of our lives. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, tempted by Satan in the wilderness to be something less than the Son of God, be with us when we are tempted to be something less than a child of God. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, remember your temptations in the wilderness and understand our human weaknesses. Send your Holy Spirit to counsel and console us in the darker days of our faith. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

All the world groans in travail, Lord Jesus, and many suffer from heartbreak and disease. Hear us as we name those who need your healing help, especially... In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Additional prayers may be added here in speech and silence.

We give thanks for all the holy ones who journeyed through the wilderness and now dwell in your promised land of rest, especially... May we follow them in lives of faithful service. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

From every wilderness day, Good Lord deliver us. **Amen**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

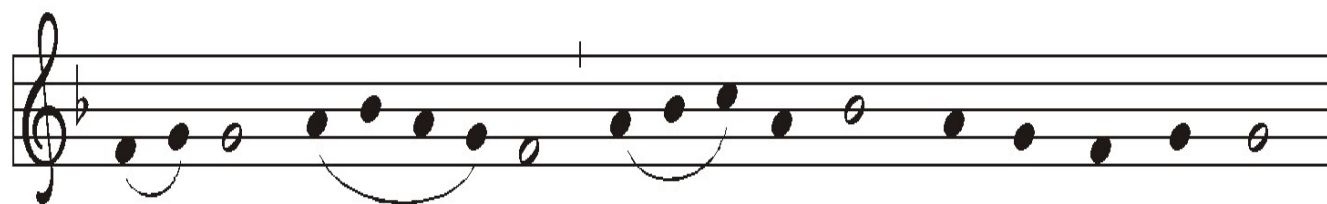
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

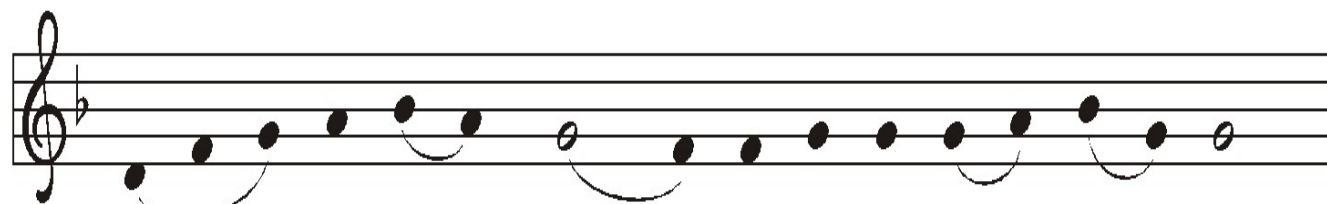
*PREFACE FOR LENT

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

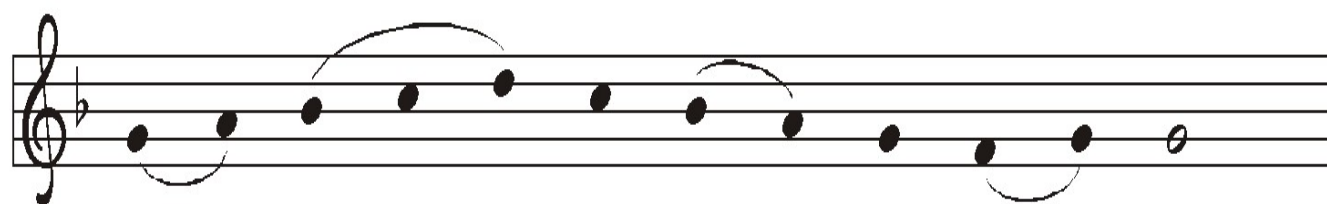
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



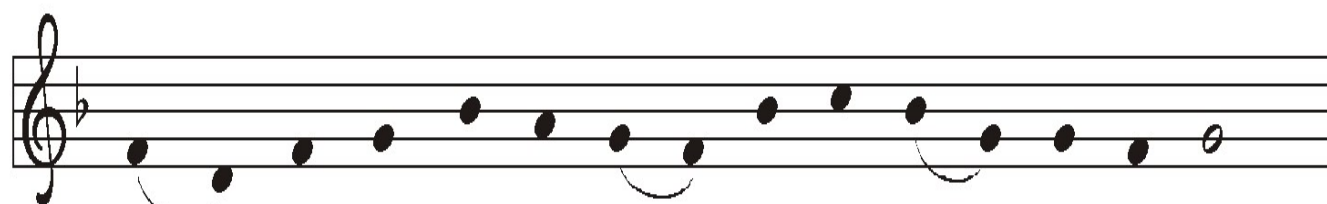
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



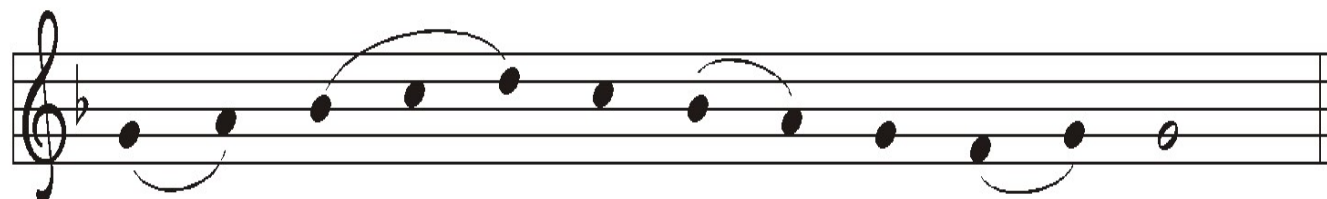
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

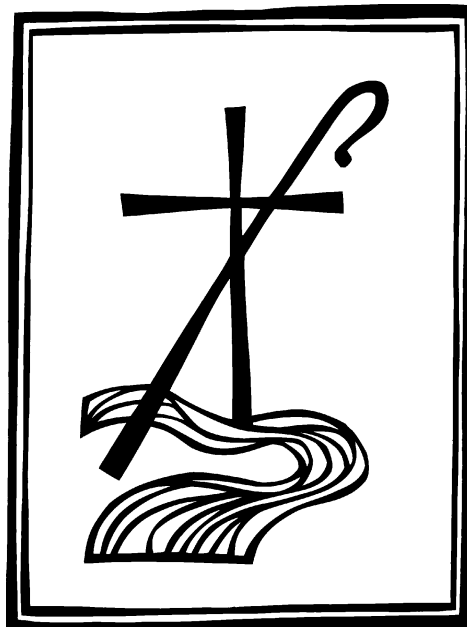
Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

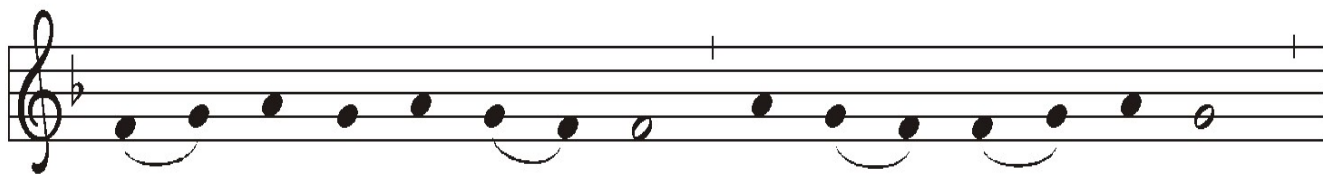
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen**



*LORD'S PRAYER



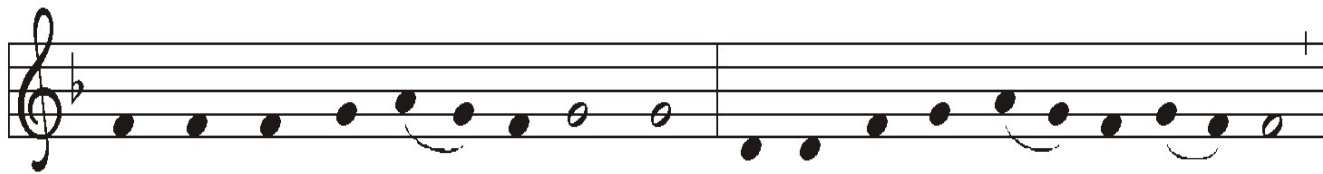
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



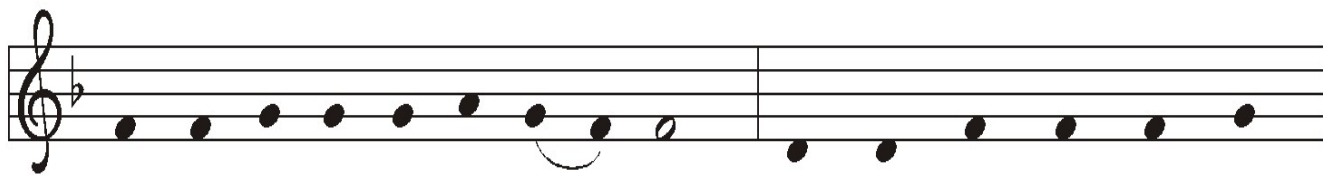
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

DISTRIBUTION

Adagio (1936)

Barber

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you + peace. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

*DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Brandon Michaels

GREETER

Sandy Garvey

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Heather Greer, Ann Head, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara, and Gregg Valek.

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan Costello, Eric Dennison, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Jeff Kubik, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Nick, Artem Molokivna, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Dan Smith, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson and Tom Zajac.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of **+Martin Selecky+** on the anniversary of his birth on March 6th, parents **+Mary+** and **+Martin Selecky, Sr.+** and sister **+Anna Dzurja+.**

Today at 2 p.m. the congregation will host **a concert by the Baroque String Ensemble and Viol Consort** from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. The hour long performance includes music by Vivaldi, Bach, and Telemann. This program features such period instruments as harpsichord, theorbo and violone. A free will offering is welcome.

Piano and Violin Studios Recital
Sunday, March 16th, 1 p.m.
in the sanctuary
Students of Jane Lauritsen and Kristine Boike
All are welcome!



Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting
will be sung every Wednesday evening at
7:15 p.m. beginning this Wednesday,
March 12th through April 9th,
preceded by a supper of soup and bread
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Supper hosts may sign up on the list posted at the lower west entrance to the dining hall or please leave a voice mail message by calling the church office at 708-442-5250 or send an email message to office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
March 2nd, 2025

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$1,962.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$0.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$0.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org .

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society
Monday, March 10th

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604
Wednesday, March 12th

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.



NERVE, SKILL, AND TRUST

It's tempting to write off Jesus' victory over temptation as admirable but distant from our own experience. Usually nothing as obvious as a devil appears in order to engage us in repartee, let alone quote scripture. Right and wrong are seldom so clear. The stuff that actually tempts us on a daily basis stands out by how dull it is in comparison to today's gospel; when in recent memory have any of us been offered world domination? Then there are those elegantly-crafted responses Jesus pulls from thin air without missing a beat. When ambushed, how often can we think on our feet and argue effectively? We may be in awe of Jesus; can we identify with him?

The temptations of Jesus follow his baptism. He has been called Beloved by God. What will he make of that? Will he manipulate the environment purely for himself, pretend to be helpless by taking risks, or try to take over? Fall off the temple, or fall down before Satan? The religious and political tests foreshadow the accusations in his final trials: that he threatens the temple and Caesar. Our own temptations may not be imperial or divine, but they are specific to our relationships and callings. We who share baptism in Christ must also discern on a daily basis what to do with the gifts and power we have.

Much Christian devotion has encouraged letting go of power; but too often goodness and passivity have been equated, with terrible consequences. Today's gospel encourages developing our ability to struggle and to defend ourselves, not least against the accusing voices within our own heads. We sing, "lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal word" ("O Lord, throughout these forty days," ELW 319). We may be surprised at the angels that join us for our song.

