

## **WE CONFESS OUR NEED**

All: Father, we come to you as children whose faith is often weak and whose actions too often displease you. We acknowledge our inability to live according to your holy standards. Too often we play with fire. We allow evil of all kinds to inhabit our conversation, our recreation, and our idle times. We think no one will see. And then we deal with guilt and shame and believe we are worthless in your sight. Forgive us and remind us of your great love for us. Then let that love change us so that in your power we may stand against our times of temptation and allow you to refine us and shape us according to your will. Amen.

## **Scripture Readings**

June 15, 2008

### **Genesis 3:1-15**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

### **Luke 11:9-13**

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in

heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

First Article of the Apostle's Creed and its explanation:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that he has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from evil. All this he does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

### Sermon Outline

*The Lord's Prayer* • "Lead us not into temptation..."

Matthew 6:5-13

Introduction: Fathers -- Protector. Warrior. Defender.

*"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one..." v.13*

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10-11*

#### 1. The tangibility of evil.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12*

- The reality \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Temptation vs. Testing.

*"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone." James 1:13*

*"...now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire -- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6-7*

- One seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ -- the other to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3. The battle rages, but \_\_\_\_\_!

*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

- Transforming \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers to Sermon Outline:

Of God's grace, deceive, reveal truth, the war is won! Our sin to His good.

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!