



# The Messenger

## International Lutheran Church

[www.ilcseoul.org](http://www.ilcseoul.org)

| March 9, 2025

| Issue #948

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

### FOR OUR SAKE... HE WAS TEMPTED

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. (Luke 4:1-2 ESV)** For our sake... Jesus was tempted by the devil. Today at International Lutheran Church we begin this season of Lent and our forty-day journey to the cross and empty tomb. Our new sermon series and meditation, *For Our Sake*, examines the true nature of the battle before us and what Jesus endured to bring us the victory!

In Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth he implores the people of God to consider just what God has done for us in Christ with these words, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:20-21 ESV). The mystery of the cross can only be understood in relation to what it means for us. During our Lenten meditation we will explore just what Paul was describing when he said "for our sake" as it relates to what Jesus did for you and me.

Today, we read in Luke's gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. This forty-day ordeal was more than just the recapitulation of the forty years of wilderness wandering of God's people in the Old Testament. This cosmic battle is instead the good news that gives us hope, because we know that Jesus was tempted in every way that we have and ever will be and yet He did not fail (Hebrews 4:15). He remained true and unmovable. Yet His victory did not come in overwhelming the devil with His superior force, but rather in His humble submission to the Word of God.

I am often asked in confirmation class a difficult "why" question. Why did God allow Satan to exist at all? Why let him be able to tempt, not only Adam and Eve, but you and me? It is not a child's question but one we struggle with every time we look at the cross. Why? Why should Jesus be tempted at all? Why would He be hungry? Why would He be at all tempted to bow to Satan's easy way out? Why would He be tested to tempt God by questioning God's Word against God's Word? Luke certainly was familiar with the good news through Paul's preaching and Paul's appeal to us all to consider the words "for our sake." For our sake, Jesus knew the

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	<i>Bible Class and Sunday School</i>
10:00 AM	<i>Divine Worship Service</i> (in-person and live stream)
7:00 PM	<i>Bible Study</i> (live stream)

### OTHER EVENTS

Go to [ilcseoul.org](http://ilcseoul.org) > Upcoming for other events

driving desire to satisfy our most basic needs. For our sake, Jesus bowed alone to the Father proving that all things are in His hands alone. For our sake, Jesus flung Himself upon the very Will and Word of God alone that this word would be fulfilled in Him.

For our sake, Jesus endured temptation in order to give to us the daily victory of our sins forgiven in our daily battle with sin, death, and the devil. We face the daily desire to see our lives only as the physical here and now. We are tempted to think that this is all there is and nothing more. We are tempted to take the easy way out and bow to the pressures all around us. We are tempted to doubt the Word of God and deny His goodness and mercy. Each are real temptations that come each day. Yet, Jesus' victory assures us of our victory in Him. Luther's Reformation Hymn *A Mighty Fortress* boldly declares, "Were they to take our house. Goods, honor, child or spouse, Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!" (LSB 657 v.4)

Our victory over Satan is not dependent on ourselves or our strength, but relies only on the good news that for our sake Jesus endured temptation. His death on the cross - that "opportune time" that the devil waited for - still did not even deter Him from His mission of saving you and me. He willingly became the very sin for which we would be justly condemned. He became death, though He is Life, that you and I would be something completely new. Jesus' victory over your sin and mine, your death and mine, gives us the hope we need to cling each day to Him as we face temptation. God grant this faith to us all for Jesus' sake!

*Pastor Carl*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to [seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com). Links to online or live stream events will be included in either the electronic version of *The Messenger* or will be sent out on Sunday morning.

### LENTEN SEASON

Today we mark the First Sunday in Lent. Purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn that Jesus endured, and the subsequent sacrifice He made for our eternal salvation. There are five Sundays in Lent, followed by Palm Sunday and then the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter).

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MARCH 23

We will hold a regular congregational meeting on Sunday, March 23 immediately after the service. The main purpose of this meeting will be the presentation and approval of the church budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Baked Potato Fellowship Luncheon will take place right after the meeting. We will have the kimchi jar out for KRW 5,000 donations for adults.

### NEW BANK ACCOUNT

If you make use of online giving, please review the new banking details shared in this issue of *The Messenger*.

### LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM LHM

Lutheran Hour Ministries provides a free devotional available in print and audio. At ILC, you can pick up a printed booklet or go online to [www.lhm.org/lenet](http://www.lhm.org/lenet) for digital access.

### ILC INFO SESSION

Immediately following the service next week (3/16), Pastor Carl will lead the latest ILC Info Session. Come learn more about ILC and the Lutheran church as a whole. No registration required. Open to all.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### ONLINE GIVING - NEW ACCOUNT

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

**NEW: Please note that we are switching to receive deposits to a new account. The Citibank account is still open, but over these next few months we will be closing that account. Thank you!**

**KEB HANA 166-890039-91604**

## READINGS

### March 9: First Sunday in Lent

OT	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
NT	Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in serving as a worship assistant, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to [seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com). Thank you!

### MARCH 9

10:00 AM

ACOLYTE	Juwon & Carmen
GREETER	James
USHERS	Chuck & Esther
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Christian
LIVE STREAM	Richard
KITCHEN HELPERS	Dee Dee & Olivia
OFFERING COUNTERS	Michelle & Eric

