



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

p. 324

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

p. 166

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 2

Commentary: God prepared a perfect garden, a place where humankind could enjoy fellowship with Him. Adam and Eve were to tend the garden, but their primary responsibility was to worship and obey God. The Lord gave them great freedom, only one tree was forbidden to them in order to test their obedience. However, Satan planted a seed of doubt in Eve's mind regarding God's ways and goodness. Satan focused Eve's thoughts on God's one prohibition and then suggested the motive for this prohibition was for God's benefit, not Adam and Eve's. The Lord had promised to provide what was good for humankind, but Eve believed Satan's lie and sinned by breaking God's law, as did Adam. Failure to appreciate God's goodness led to distrust of His goodness. God's prohibitions, as well as His provisions, are always for our good.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 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." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

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Confession of Sin

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The Peace

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Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer I

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Sanctus

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The Lord’s Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers available upon request

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

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The Blessing

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

Thomas Henry Wright, Eleanor Gilchrist Wright,

Thomas Henry Wright Jr., Sally Cameron Labouisse, John Witherspoon Labouisse.

ST. JAMES PARISH

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