

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 (*Given the seriousness with which he begins his journey to the cross, you can be sure that his call to repentance was not trite or cute or trivial. The good news is that he was victorious in the struggle, and that he won it for us. Now he calls us into his kingdom. Pass through the gate of repentance to the good news Lent announces, and then go back into the desert to struggle against the foes of the devil, the world and your own flesh with him as your strength and support and with the holy angels as your companions. The alternative? A struggle outside of the kingdom with the fallen angel/destroyer as your guide and his doom as your future.*)

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, ¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. ¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Hymn of the Day: *431* I Walk in Danger All the Way

Sermon: **The Lord Will Provide**

Offering: (*Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.*)

3rd Hymn: *419* If God Himself be for Me St. 1-4

Closing Hymn: *419* If God Himself be for Me St. 5-7

Ushers: This Week – Paul Milbrath & Lucas Zuehlke
Next Week – Jim Lichtenberg & Jeremy Wagie

Greeters: This Week – Richard & Shirley Pfeifer
Next Week – Kevin & Holly Broedlow

Seminary Food Drive

We will be accepting donations until the start of school on Monday, February 19th. Pastor and Janet Swanson will be taking the items to the Seminary in Mequon that morning. Anyone is welcome to join them and make a contribution. Paper goods, dry goods, toiletries and even baby items are appreciated. Items may be brought to the school or given to a Ladies Aid member.

1st Sunday in Lent

**February
17 & 18,
2018**

St. Peter's

Ev.

Lutheran Church

**P.O. Box 86,
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Wisconsin**

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*Pastor:
Mark Swanson*

*Principal:
Craig Winkler*

*Organist:
Judy Acker*

We Welcome You!

The call to sinners in Lent is a serious call to struggle. While we throw out and leave behind the trivial outward Roman type practices of Lent, let's not throw out repentance in the process. Let's not replace the trivial externals with something even worse: assurances that we are so forgiven that we need not bother anymore with repentance.

Opening Hymn: 202 If God Had Not Been on Our Side

Order of Worship: Service of the Word pg. 38

Prayer of the Day:

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God's Word for Today:

First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-18 (*Perhaps you don't think that you have all that much to repent of or struggle against. Well, then think about the First Commandment. What do you love so much that it would be impossible to willingly and gladly give up if the Lord required it? Would you give up your son? Abraham got up early and went straight ahead to obey. Would you? When God has required you to give something up, some time, some friend, some money, some popularity, out of love and loyalty to his Word, did you do it? Did you do it gladly and willingly? If God would ask you now to give up house and home, wealth and position, all that you are and have, would you get up early and go straight to it? If he took these things away, would you complain about it? If you do not love God enough to give up your son for him, why should he give up his Son for you? But that's what he promises in the closing verses of the reading. The offspring, descended from Isaac, in whom we will really be blessed, deserves our all. We deserve nothing. How little he gets. How much he gives just to forgive the littleness of our heart's devotion. Everything is opposite and upside down of the way we would expect and the way we deserve. Do you still think you have nothing to repent of and that the struggle is easy?)*

Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." ⁶

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. ⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." ¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Psalm 6: Pg. 66 (*Sung together*)

Second Lesson: Romans 8:31-39 (*As beautiful as these verses are, it takes a miracle for us to believe them! That's what Lent is all about, a detailing of the otherwise unbelievable love of God in the sacrifice of his own Son for the likes of us sinners.*)

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse of the Day: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.