

The Holy Communion
“Conversations with Jesus”
Week One: The Tempter
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
10:30am & 7:30pm



Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool
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Ministers - The People of God

Pastor - The Reverend Robert Schoepflin

Pastoral Associate - The Reverend Dr. Toby L. Tobias

Deacon - Ms. Kathy Pucci

Deacon - Mr. Gavin Schwen

Organist and Director of Music - Dr. Thomas Zatorski

Soloist - Ms. Lisa Pecchio

Preschool Director - Ms. Marialaina Sheehan



**Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America**

“Conversations with Jesus”

Week One: The Tempter

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Sunday lectionary for Lent this year reveals Jesus in conversation with both friends and adversaries. Lent’s first Sunday finds him confronting God’s ancient adversary in Matthew’s account of the temptation. The second Sunday presents Jesus’ interaction with the seeker, Nicodemus, who is perhaps not ready to make a commitment to following this new teacher. The third, fourth, and fifth Sundays are full of intriguing conversation partners for Jesus: the Samaritan woman at the well, the man who received his sight, Martha and Mary after the death of their brother Lazarus.

In these five midweek services we will join the conversation between Jesus and his partners from the previous Sunday’s gospel reading.

GATHERING

The love of God poured into our hearts,
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

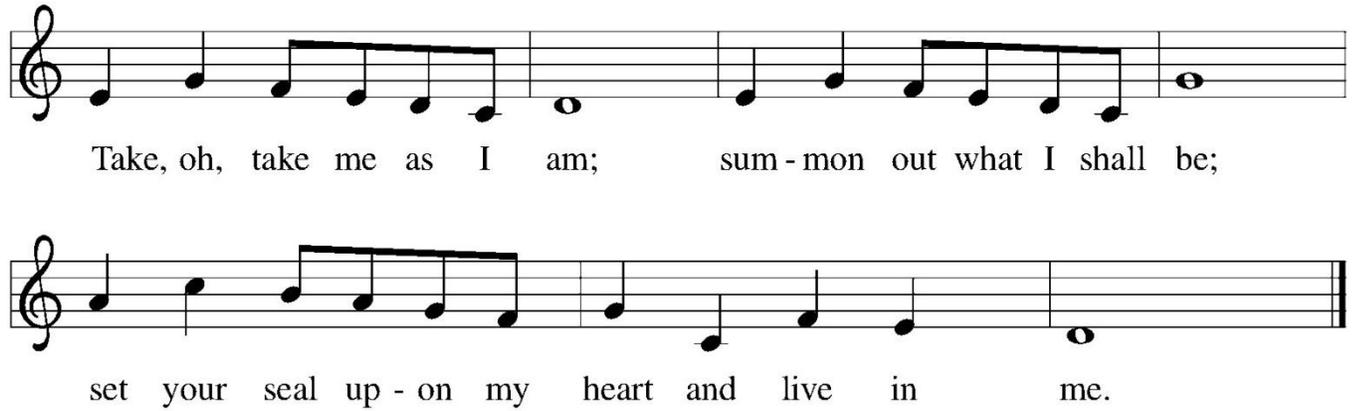
OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN 814

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the

test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOLY CONVERSATION

-Imagine Jesus addressing you as he does the tempter’s first temptation: What word of God nourishes and strengthens you in life’s wilderness?

-Imagine the tempter addressing you: What draws your attention away from service of God alone?

-Imagine you are Jesus, responding to the tempter’s third temptation: How does your faith ground your response to the lure of worldly success, however you understand it?

PRAYERS AND SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Response: Hear us, and have mercy.)

Driven by the Spirit into Lent’s wilderness, let us pray for the church and the world, responding, “Hear us, and have mercy.”

A brief silence.

That the baptized may mirror the faithfulness of Jesus in this holy season, we pray: **Hear us, and have mercy.**

That those preparing for baptism and confirmation may follow Jesus' example of righteousness, we pray: **Hear us, and have mercy.**

That those consumed by hunger for power and wealth may worship God alone, we pray: **Hear us, and have mercy.**

That works of justice and charity may turn the stones of poverty and despair into the bread of freedom and hope, we pray: **Hear us, and have mercy.**

That God's messengers may comfort the sick in their time of trial, including those we now name (*pause*), we pray: **Hear us, and have mercy.**

That this assembly may keep Lent with good works of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we pray: **Hear us, and have mercy.**

Hear us, God of salvation, and give us the gifts of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to sustain us in Lent's wilderness, that Easter may find us renewed and joyful in the light of Christ's glory, to the praise of your holy name. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING

PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 325

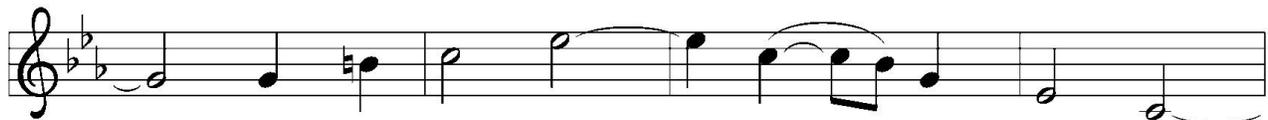
"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

SENDING

Go in peace. Follow in the way of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

*If you would like contact information for the council members listed below,
please call the church office at 631-269-6454.*

Joanne Pittfick, President
Pr. Robert Schoepflin, Vice-President
Brian Ansink, Fellowship
Karen Garone, Finance
Joie Burkhardt, Treasurer
Karen Garone, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Waldron, Assistant Treasurer
Arthur Wakefield, Assistant Treasurer
Barbara Kaifler, Secretary
Marina Bedrossian, Youth
Chris Fick, Property
Karen Wallin, Social Ministries
Betty Bose, Music and Worship
Aubrey Minton, Christian Education
Paul Farber, Stewardship
Lauri Christiansen-Wegener, Outreach and Marketing (Evangelism)

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Sunday Schedule **9:30am In person** **The Holy Eucharist**
and Live stream via YouTube
Sunday school N3 – Grade 5 **9:30am In person**
Monday Schedule **7:30pm In person** **The Holy Eucharist**

OUR MISSION

The mission of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, a spiritual home centered in Christ and community, is to share Jesus' love in our words and in our works as we welcome all to the family of God.



CHURCH WEBSITE



PRESCHOOL WEBSITE

**Church: www.abidingpresencechurch.org email: abidingpresenceoffice@gmail.com
Preschool: www.abidingpresencepreschool.com email: aplcpreschool@gmail.com**