

WILDERNESS: OFF THE GRID

WEEK ONE: TESTED IN THE WILDERNESS

5th Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

In our lives we may go through seasons of wilderness wandering. Usually, it is in that wandering God works the hardest in our lives (or at least that's how it appears). Over the next four weeks we will look at some wilderness moments found in Scripture...And how those moments connect to our moments.

This week we look at Jesus and His wilderness temptations. Each time Satan tempts Jesus to give into these worldly desires, Jesus silences him by quoting scripture, deciding to allow God to satisfy him, and to worship God alone. For us, throughout the normal of everyday life we receive constant reminders of the Lord's goodness. Sometimes these reminders are huge blessings, sometimes they are very small seemingly insignificant gifts. But they serve to keep us mindful that our hope always rests in the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CALL ON GOD'S NAME

WE SING

"Child of Love"
"Battle Belongs"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 12: 1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

⁹"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."
¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

KIDS' TIME

Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"Tested"
(Today's readings)

Pastor Doug Slavens

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

WORDS OF CONFESSION (Psalm 32:5b)

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" –

C: And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

P: Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father;

C: Dear heavenly Father, we confess our weakness and our sinfulness to You. Against difficult circumstances, we often try to find our own way through each day, rather than placing our trust in You. We sometimes despair even when You've spoken Your promises to never leave us or forsake us. Forgive us for our lack of faith. For Jesus 'sake, forgive us for our sins against You and against others. By Your Holy Spirit, lift us up and renew us for hope-filled living by Your strength; living that trusts and follows Your way. Amen.

Silent time for personal reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

THE LORD SHARES HIS SUPPER WITH US

WORDS OF PREPARATION & INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD IN HOLY COMMUNION

WE SING "Raise A Hallelujah"
"Shoulders"

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

NOISY OFFERING (Funds support Laundry Events)

CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING "Help Is On The Way (Maybe Midnight)"

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.