

Old Orchard Church

October 3, 2010 – 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate.

But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.



Cover art: *The Knight, Death, and the Devil*. Woodcut by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528).

For our struggle is not against
flesh and blood, but against the rulers,
against the authorities, against the powers
of this dark world and against the spiritual
forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 6:12—

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Our Captain in Spiritual Warfare

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ
Who has defeated our Ancient Foe,
And now trains our hands for war.

Our arms can bend a bronze bow,
And he gladly gives us daily a shield for victory,
That we may endure every attack.

The Lord's right hand sustains us,
He stoops down to make us great!
The Lord arms me with strength for battle;
God will crush my Enemy, Satan of old, under my feet.

The Lord lives, Praise be to my Rock!
Let God my Savior be exalted.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Kings 6:8-17

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-18

Sermon Series on Ruth

“The Coincidence”

Ruth 2

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

Invisible Aggression

[Jesus said:] Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. (Luke 22:31-32)

Temptation is the danger-element in life, the temporal, yes, eternal risk inherent in human existence.

Temptation is part and parcel of personal life.

There can be no human life without temptation. Both the first and the second Adam were sinless, but both had to be subject to temptation. Character cannot be formed except it be tested in the purging fires of temptation.

The hour of temptation is life's fateful hour. It is in such hours that the course of our life is determined.

Between such hours life flows along in comparative quiet and safety. But in the hour of trial something *takes place* within us. Something decisive.

Something decisive with respect to our own life.

The seasons of temptation are brief, but they are fraught with eternal decisions and consequences.

The course of our lives, not only for time, but also for eternity, is determined during these brief moments.

That is why the citizens of the *invisible* world are so active during the hour of temptation. They know how fraught with consequences these moments are; therefore they follow us in our temptations with great unseen activity.

That is what Jesus tells us in our passage today.

Let us note the *strong* words He uses: **Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.**

It is the devilishly active, the aggressive, the purposive character of temptation that Jesus would emphasize here. The invisible, eternal aspect of temptation. This imparts a seriousness to it which transcends the fleeting moments of time—even the bounds of time itself.

—O. Hallesby (1879—1961)

