

Worthy Is the Lamb

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Holy is the Lamb

Precious is the Lamb

Glory to the Lamb

Jesus is our Lamb

Old Orchard Church

Second Sunday in Lent

February 24, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

**Jesus, what a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in him...**

**Because Jesus himself
suffered when
he was tempted,
he is able to help those
who are being tempted.**

Hebrews 2:18 (NIV)

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.**



**...tempted, tried, and
sometimes failing,
He my strength,
my victory wins!**

Celebrating Jesus, Divine Son of Man: Sorely Tempted

And the Baptism of Emma Hendrick and Alethea Schmalhofer

However often we find ourselves
“tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,”
Jesus Christ remains the Friend of those who cling to him.
Taunted in the wilderness, tempted himself in Gethsemane,
he withstood the appeal of self-centeredness and
remained the light of goodness in the enveloping darkness.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus;
Praise be to our Elder Brother, our Friend!
He knows our weakness, and loves us;
He carried our failures to the cross, and covered them.
By his life he has become our Sympathy;
By his death, our Victory.
In the presence of his congregation,
sing him your praises!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Job 1:1-12

Gospel Reading: Luke 22:31-46

Sermon Series on Ephesians

“What Is the Church? And Does It Matter?”

Ephesians 4:1-16

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

The Temptations

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
Matthew 4:1*

Jesus went straight from the waters of Jordan to the desert of Judea, where he was savagely tempted by the devil. The assault took two forms.

First came an assault on his identity, on who he was. The words of his Father were still ringing in his ears—“**This is my Son**”—when the voice from heaven was challenged by a voice from hell. The devil sneered, “**If you are the Son of God...**” (v. 6), implying that he was not. It was a deliberate attempt to sow in Jesus’s mind the seeds of doubt. To counter them, Jesus must have kept repeating to himself the words of his Father, “**This is my Son.**” Still today the devil attempts to undermine our self-conscious identity as God’s children. For he is *diabolos*, the slanderer. We need to turn a deaf ear to him and listen instead to the great affirmations and promises of God in Scripture.

The devil’s second assault was against the ministry of Jesus, against what he had come into the world to do. We saw yesterday that the heavenly voice identified Jesus not only as God’s Son but also as God’s servant, who would suffer and die for his people’s sins. But the devil proposed other and less costly options. Why not win the world by satisfying his hunger, by a sensational display of power, or by striking a bargain with the devil—in each case bypassing the cross? The devil loves to persuade us that the end justifies the means.

Jesus refused to listen to the voice of the devil. Immediately, instinctively, vehemently, he rejected each temptation. There was no need to discuss or to negotiate. The matter had already been settled by Scripture (“It is written”); each time, he quoted an appropriate text from Deuteronomy 6 or 8. Still today there is a confusion of voices. The devil speaks though the secular culture surrounding us, and God speaks through his Word. Which shall we listen to? It is by our daily dogged discipline of Bible reading that we allow the devil’s voice to be drowned by the voice of God. “**Resist the devil, and he will flee from you**” (James 4:7).

—John Stott

