



WALKER'S CHAPEL



Behold Your King!

Jesus in the Wilderness

January 5, 2025 • Second Sunday After Christmas

Service of Worship

January 5, 2025 • Second Sunday After Christmas

Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

Words of Greeting

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

God Calls His People and Reveals Himself

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Call to Worship • Psalm 34:1-8

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

Invocation

Hymn of Praise • A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Hymnal, 92)

God Calls His People to Confession, Repentance, and Reconciliation

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Prayer of Confession • Matt 6:13; 26:41; 1 Cor 10:13; Heb 4:15; 1 John 1:9

Leader: Father, You have told us to pray for deliverance from temptation, yet we often stray into paths of sin.

People: **We confess that we do not always seek Your deliverance, and we often allow temptation to draw us away from You.**

Leader: Your Word reminds us that no temptation is beyond our ability to resist because You are faithful to provide a way of escape, but we often fail to take it.

People: **Forgive us for yielding to the desires of the flesh instead of seeking Your strength.**

Leader: Forgive us for not following the example of our Savior, who was tempted in every way we are, yet without sin.

People: Help us to watch and pray so that we do not fall into temptation.

Leader: Thank you for your willingness to forgive and cleanse us when we confess our sins.

All: Wash us clean, renew our hearts, and strengthen us by Your Spirit to resist temptation and to walk in holiness. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon • Isaiah 55:7

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” **Amen.**

Hymn of Prayer • Jesus, Lover of My Soul (Hymnal, 508)

God Teaches Us Through His Word

Scripture Reading • Matthew 4:1-25

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.”

Sermon

Jesus in the Wilderness – Jeremiah Pent, Pastor

God’s People Respond in Grateful Praise

Hymn of Commitment • Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (Hymnal, 598)

Profession of Faith • from Heidelberg Catechism, Question 127

What does the sixth petition of The Lord’s Prayer mean, which says, ‘And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’?

It means that by ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies – the devil, the world, and our own flesh – never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong by the power of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

Words of Institution and the Lord’s Table

Guidelines for the Lord’s Supper. *The Lord’s Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.*

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. Suggested prayers are provided below.

At Walker's Chapel, we come forward to receive communion. Come as directed until the spaces around the rail are all taken. Groups will be dismissed together, at which point another group can gather at the rail. Wine or juice are both available depending on your conviction. Wine is on the outside ring of the tray, and juice is in the middle section. You may kneel if you so desire, but this is not required.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. *Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen*

Prayer of Belief. *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen*

Prayer of Commitment. *Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through regular assembly with your people. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen*

God Sends His People Out to Be Light in Darkness

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, and instructing them in His Word, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Hymn of Hope • How Firm a Foundation (Hymnal, 94), verses 1, 2, 4, 6

Benediction • Hebrews 4:14-16

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” *Amen.*

O Thou in Whose Presence

Dear Shep - herd, I hear and will fol - low Thy call; I
know the sweet sound of Thy voice. Re - store and de - fend me, for
Thou art my All, And in Thee I will ev - er re - jice.

Text: Joseph Swain, *Redemption, a Poem in Five Books*, 1791; Music: DAVIS, Freeman Lewis, 1813.

Announcements *Please send prayer requests or announcements to jp@walkerschapel.org.*

- **Offerings.** If you have offerings to the Lord you'd like to give through Walker's Chapel, you may do so in the box on the wall as you leave the sanctuary on your left. *Thank you*
- **Reading Group.** We will resume our weekly reading group on January 17. We will be reading CS Lewis's "Ransom Trilogy." If you are interested in joining the group, send an email to jp@walkerschapel.org, and we'll add you to the email list so you can receive updates.



WALKER'S CHAPEL

7402 Orange Road, Orange VA 22960 • walkerschapel.org