

## Proclamation of God's Word

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:1-13 (See insert)

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Lead Us Not into Temptation" Pastor Jenny Lee

## We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Spirit above all spirits, revealed to us in the faithfulness of Jesus and in the testimony of our ancestors in the faith, keep us from temptations that block our worship and silence our witness. Inspire us to share both bread and meaning, to worship with pure motives, to serve without need for recognition or reward, that your name may be glorified and your will be done among us and through us. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

From the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be spent in ways you choose, in places where you would send us, for the sake of people among whom you wish to dwell. May we bear witness to your abiding love, not only with money but with dedicated lives. Allow us to be instruments of assurance and compassion in our homes, and in wherever our journeys lead. Amen!

## We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

\*CLOSING HYMN *I Am Thine, O Lord* UMH 419 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

\*POSTLUDE

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

# Upper St. Croix Parish

**ONE Parish THREE Churches:**  
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls  
March 6th, 2022  
"1st Sunday in Lent"

FIRST SUNDAY IN  
LENT



**The United Methodist Church**

8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

9:45 AM at Atlas

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**March 6th, 2022**  
**“1st Sunday in Lent”**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

*“Peace be with you”*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP    Responsive**

Gather to remember and share stories of faith;  
rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

**Before our stories began, there was God;  
through all our days, God walks with us.**

Worship the one who gives and sustains life;  
sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

**There is no place we can go where God is not;  
amid life’s terrors, God’s promises hold true.**

Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy;  
dance with the God, who frees us for new possibilities.

**We call out to God, expecting to be heard;  
we listen, knowing there is truth to be received. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN    *Take Time to Be Holy*    UMH 395 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER    Unison**

God of history, whose Word is alive in us, write your truth into our lives this day. Work your signs and wonders in our midst. Show us your salvation. Be present in our troubles and in our triumphs. Lead us away from bondage to things that do not matter. Show us the better land you intend for us, where barriers no longer divide and true community is born. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**INVITATION FOR COMMUNION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**CONFESSION AND PARDON    Unison**

**Merciful God,**

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(All pray in silence)*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**UMH 13-14 (See insert)**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION PRAYER    Unison**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which  
you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the  
name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Ash Service (A & SCF)**

**THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES    Unison**

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.**

**Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and  
repentance, so that we may remember that only by your gracious  
gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

*Receiver: Amen, I believe it.*

*The Temptation of Jesus*

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil<sup>[a]</sup> led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil<sup>[b]</sup> said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

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

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil<sup>[c]</sup> took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his  
disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it  
to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood  
of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living  
sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of  
faith.

**(Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.)**

*(You may hold the communion elements with your two hands.)*

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on  
these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and  
blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly  
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy  
Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

## \*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and  
entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another  
two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.  
16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded  
with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who  
had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had  
received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his  
master’s money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and  
settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five  
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you  
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21 His  
master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been  
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter  
into the joy of your master.’ 22 And the one with the two talents also came  
forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have  
made two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and  
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put  
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 Then  
the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,  
‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not  
sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and  
I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26  
But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,  
that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27  
Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my  
return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take  
the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all  
those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but  
from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30  
As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there  
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

# MARCH CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p><b>Support Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Pantry</b></p> 	<p><b>Collecting Canned vegetables</b></p> 
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## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>Providing support to the middle school by collecting personal items, notes, shampoos, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and school supplies.</p> 
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b> (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b> Support the Polk County Drug Court</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Today's Service

**Central:**  
 Pianist Toni Koons  
 Liturgist LuAnne Martell  
 Snow Removal Stan Chute  
 Acolyte(s) Willow Nylend  
 Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**  
 Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
 Sunday School Younger/Older  
 LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis



**Atlas:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Colleen Adams-Schween  
 Usher(s) Sue Olson  
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
 Sunday school Younger/Older  
 Cheryl Olson/no class

**St. Croix Falls:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
 Usher(s) Jim Sciacca  
 Money Counter Peter Gionis  
 Flowers Kathy Gionis  
 Fellowship Ad Council Members

**BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:**  
 "This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)  
 Please pray every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

"Please pray for yourselves to sincerely practice self-decision, self-control, self-promise in the Lenten Season."

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.  
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear “the service by Phone,” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

### This Week’s Calendar:

Today: 1st Sunday in Lent! May God lead us closer to God in Lent!

*\*We have 2022 signup sheets for volunteers. Please find a spot where you can be a part of the church. We are the church, which is growing in faith together.*

### Sunday Worship Service:

- 3/6: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
9:45 am Atlas  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 3/8: 7:00 pm, Provisional Elder Mentoring via Zoom
- 3/9: 1:00 pm, UMW Meeting (G)  
6:30 pm, Confirmation Class (G)
- 3/10: 6:30 pm, Lenten Bible Study -Session 1 via Zoom
- 3/12: 8:00 am, The UM Men’s Meeting (G)

### This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:



*Mariah Gaffey 3/8*

*Steve Sylvester 3/8*

*Colleen Adams-Schween 3/10*

*Dorothy Miller 3/11*

*Wren Grimes 3/12*

### Next Sunday (March 13th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

#### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons  
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*  
Snow Removal Stan Chute  
Acolyte(s) Willow Nylend  
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*  
Counter *Volunteer Needed*  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

#### Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*  
Usher(s) *Volunteer Needed*  
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
*Volunteer Needed*

#### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
Usher(s) Jim Sciacca  
Money Counter Peter Gionis  
Flowers Kathy Gionis  
Fellowship Ad Council Members (3rd Sunday)



**IN THE LENT SEASON: LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (THURSDAYS) AND CRAFT GROUP GATHERING (WEDNESDAYS)**

**3/13: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS**

**PASTOR JENNY PREACHES AT GRACE KOREAN COMMUNITY IN SUPERIOR**

**3/16: LENTEN CRAFT GROUP GATHERING-SESSION 1**



March 6th, 2022  
Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.  
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

## **“Lead Us Not into Temptation!”**

I want to start with something funny. I heard about a little boy named Johnny. After the Ash Service, Johnny tells his parents he has to go and talk to the pastor right away. They agree, and the pastor greets the family. “Pastor,” Johnny says, “I heard you say today that our bodies came from the dust.” “That’s right, Johnny, I did,” he says. “And I heard you say that when we die, our bodies go back to dust.” “Yes, I’m glad you were listening,” the pastor replies. “Why do you ask?” Johnny said, “Well, you better come over to our house right away and look under my bed, ‘cause there’s some either comin’ or goin’!”

It is the first Sunday in Lent, 2022. Time goes by so fast. As you know, Lent means “Spring.” Through Ash Service, it reminds us that it is time to wash darkness and sinfulness out and prepare to refresh our minds and spirits in God’s grace as spring comes after winter is gone. Remembering we shall return to dust, let us use self-control and not give into temptation in our everyday lives. We have 40 days of Lent. The number 40 is very meaningful in the scripture, a period of testing or trial. It relates to the 40 days Noah spent in the Ark during the great flood. Many people laughed at Noah building the Ark for 120 years, and in the Ark, Noah waited for God’s sign while the great flood happened. Finally, Noah found new land 40 days later.

It is also related to the 40 years Israel spent seeking the Promised Land after the exodus from Egypt. Israelites suffered for 40 years in the wilderness. Many died in the wilderness, who couldn’t pass over the trials and temptations. But, a few of them got to the Promised Land, after 40 years. Like these, the number 40 has a biblical meaning. It is like a rite of passage that one has to undergo to get to the new things.

The number 40 relates to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. Today’s scripture describes Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. We found the strange verses, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil” (4:1-2a). We are curious as to why the devil tempted Jesus. How could it have happened if Jesus was the son of God? In addition, we wonder how it could have happened if Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit after he was baptized in the Jordan River. Plus, it says, Jesus went to the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. It is unbelievable. We should understand these curiosities before we look at how Jesus was tempted and how he overcame all temptation.

First, the verses may notify us that we, Christians, can be tempted even after we are baptized and even when we are full of the Holy Spirit. God may want us to know, especially when we decide to dedicate ourselves to God’s work, and when we just try to be involved in God’s ministry, evil things may tempt us, or we are blocked by something that happens. It happened for Jesus right after he was baptized, and it was just right before he was to start his public ministry. One more thing we need to pay attention to is the word “wilderness.” The

wilderness was where the Israelites wandered, seeking the Promised Land. The wilderness is considered the land of death. There is no life, but it is thirsty. In other words, the wilderness means no God; but there is hunger, thirst, suffering, temptations, and everlasting tiredness. If we leave God, we might experience the wilderness. Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37b-38). However, we often miss the simple truth that we should belong to Jesus in all circumstances. And we try resolve things through our own knowledge and reasoning when we face risk or trials, instead of praying to God.

I want to share my story. When I was a freshman in a seminary, my father still didn't believe in God, while my mother and my siblings believed in God. Most Saturday evenings, our siblings gathered at my parents' house to attend Sunday service at the same church. We were planning on how we could make my father become a Christian. However, we made plans for my father each week and every Sunday morning we had something happen that blocked us from going to church. Sometimes, my father was sick or too had drank too much, or my father hid my mother's coats or shoes. It was a very small thing, but it affected all family members' emotional wellbeing. One day, my younger sister said, "I think it is a trial. Let us pray for our father." So, we decided to pray for 40 days to make my father a Christian, and it worked slowly. Eventually, my father didn't drink any longer, and the bad things happening on Sunday mornings were reduced. Finally, my father stopped drinking and came to the church with us. After my father was baptized, he spoke to all my family members and relatives and we stopped the ancestor's worship. Instead, he asked me to lead a home worship service.

We may face trials or temptations, but if we pray to God, God makes a way for us to avoid these situations. The Apostle Paul says, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing, he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Today's scripture shows us how to avoid the trials and temptations we might be faced with. When Jesus finished fasting for 40 days and felt hungry, the devil said to him, "If you are the son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." The devil knew that Jesus was the son of God, and Jesus could make stones into the loaf of bread. However, Jesus answered, "One does not live by bread alone." When you don't do something when it's bad or wrong, even though you can, it is very powerful. Jesus overcame all temptations by not listening to the devil even though he could do it. Jesus could make stone into bread, get glory and authority, and jump down from the temple top like superman. However, he didn't do it because it was the way to follow the devil. The devil or bad things may come closer into our everyday lives, such as having a lack of food or housing, or the conflict between family members or friends. However, remember why Jesus was tempted after he was baptized and right before his public ministry. He would show us what we need to do. Remember, self-control is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit from God. In Lent, let us focus our self-control towards God. Make a rule in our lives of following God, and practice not giving in to temptation. Pray daily saying, "lead us not into temptation." "This kind can come out only by prayers" (Mark 9:29). Thanks be to God. Amen.