



## WE GATHER

### *Prelude*

### *Welcome/Introduction*

P: The liturgical season of Lent developed over the centuries as a time of deepened reflection. Originally a period of preparation for baptisms on Easter Eve, it later became a time for all Christians to take stock of their lives and examine how the connection to their faith was progressing—or not—and to recommit to a life of goodness. This year we will indeed open up and take stock. But rather than feel guilty (a popular Lenten pastime) about what we haven't accomplished in our lives and faith, we will spend some time questioning how our culture's obsession with achievement and perfection actually keeps us from the true depths of life and faith. This Lent, we'll take some time to turn ladder-climbing into garden-tending, nurturing our souls and embracing our holy, "good enough," lives.

### *\*Theme Song: "Good Enough"*

What in our lives do we dream a-bout for to - mor-row, void of sor-row?

5 Timespent re - gret-ting de - ci - sions of our yes-ter-days, mi - stakes we made?

9 Some-times we get what we get, life dis - ap-oints us and yet,

13 God is still here and some - how, this faith is good e - nough.

## CALLING ON GOD

**\*Prayer of the Day:** *Based on Psalm 91*

Let us pray together:

**Holy One, Our Refuge and Shelter, we call out to you, sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress—as life goes. Whether we perceive it or not, you are there. Open us this day to your presence in the smile of a friend, in the call of a bird—in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.**

**Amen.**

**\*Honest Questions, Compassionate Response**

We find ourselves hungry for many things that we believe will bring us satisfaction. In today's Gospel, the devil lays a bet that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. Who wouldn't? But Jesus keeps up the pithy one-liners long enough that the Tempter just has to slink away. What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be more special than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy—as is? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*Silent Reflection*

Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Romans: **“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the temptations of the “not enoughness” of our time, inviting us to love and revere the seeming ordinariness of the day-to-day so that we might recognize its true beauty. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## WE PROCLAIM

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 4: 1-13*

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. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil 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. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil 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, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** “*Ordinary lives can be holy.*” ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Prayers of the People Song: “That Is Enough for Me”**

Our prayer song in this Lent season is written by an evangelist who wrote in the 19th century, Daniel S. Warner. A newspaper publisher and outspoken believer in sanctification (the movement toward perfection), he nonetheless penned this hymn drawing on First Timothy 6, a text that reminds us not to slip from the desire to see one’s family well-fed and clothed to seeing them *more* well-fed and clothed than others. Embracing a good enough life means also embracing the need for the ordinariness of *all* lives to be good enough—cared for enough, sheltered and fed enough, loved enough. As long as this is not true in this world, we will pray and work for justice. And so Warner’s first verse is followed by an adapted new second verse turning our attention to the needs of the world. Let us sing this song together now.



1. Though all a-long our dail-y pil-grim race our treas-ures small and ve-ry few may be,  
2. When food and rai-ment are not ev-er sure, and sim-ple fare is hard to get for some,



our souls are blest with God’s un - end - ing grace, and that is e-nough, e-nough for me.  
we work to share our goods with one and all, and that is e-nough, e-nough for me.



Oh that’s \_\_\_\_\_ e - nough for me, \_\_\_\_\_ God’s  
Oh, that’s \_\_\_\_\_ e - nough for me, \_\_\_\_\_ God’s



truth \_\_\_\_\_ has set me free; \_\_\_\_\_ The love \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ has  
truth \_\_\_\_\_ has set me free; \_\_\_\_\_ A love \_\_\_\_\_ like Christ’s is



sanc - ti - fied my soul, And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is e - nough for \_\_\_\_\_ me.  
meant for ev - ’ry soul, And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is e - nough for \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*A Blessing for the week by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie:  
"Joyfully Mediocre Journey"**

"Blessed are you who realize there is simply not enough—time, money, resources. Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection. It's not. And you know that now. Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today, God is here, and somehow, that is good enough."

**\*Benediction**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the ordinary parts, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy.  
**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"..... ELW 319**

**\*Dismissal**

God is still here and somehow,  
**This faith is good enough.**  
Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Oh Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

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