

1 Samuel 1:21-28 (ESV)

²¹ The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.”

²³ Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him ²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him.

²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.

Hebrews 2:14-18 (ESV)

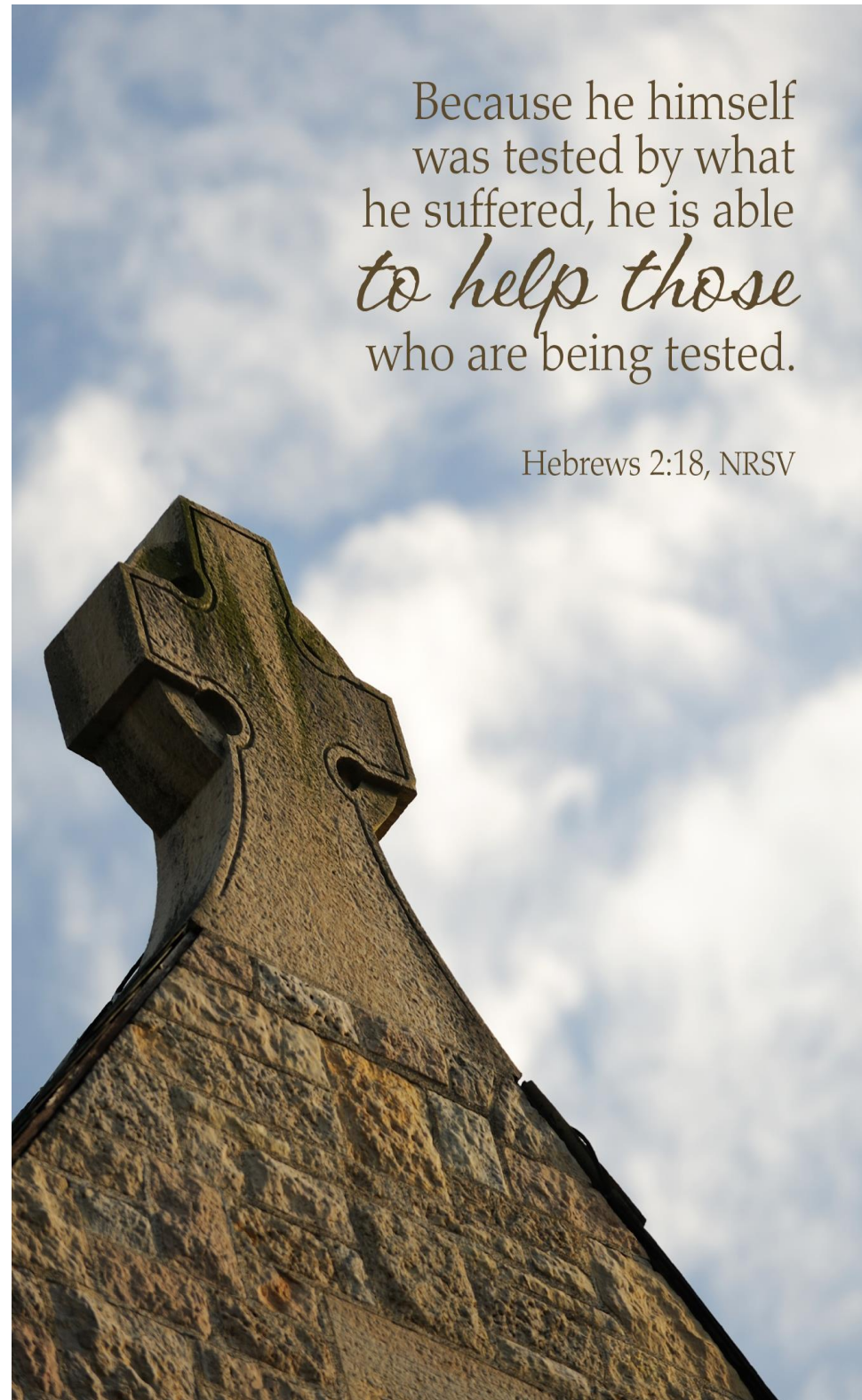
¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Luke 2:22-40 (ESV)

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Because he himself
was tested by what
he suffered, he is able
to help those
who are being tested.

Hebrews 2:18, NRSV



✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY
The Greatest Gift You Can Give

Theme of the Day ~ God Gives the Gift of a Child to Destroy Death. The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. "As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD" (1 Sam. 2:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to "destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Heb. 2:14b-15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do "in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced, and we with them, for we know that we, too, can face death unafraid and "depart in peace" (Luke 2:29) when our time comes. We celebrate Christian education today from our homes to our Lutheran Church and Schools. May God bless us to raise up Jesus' name by raising our children to raise up His name with us.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

RINGING OF BELLS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN "Earth and All Stars"

LSB 817

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father.

People: Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His, we are His people; the sheep of His pasture. *Psalm 100:3*

Pastor: In the name of the Son.

People: This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. *1 John 4:9*

Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit.

People: The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. *John 14:26*

Pastor: Gathered in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity, we celebrate ministries of our church.

People: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."
Amen. *Matthew 28:19-20*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In order that we might enter the presence of God as His holy children, let us examine ourselves in the light of the Ten Commandments of God and seek His forgiveness.

**People: You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father:

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, You have been our Teacher through Your Word, leading us into truth and life. Enlighten our minds, we pray, by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful students of the Scriptures to the strengthening of our faith;

People: **through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ WORD +

BIBLE READINGS 1 Samuel 1:21-28, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSORY

Pastor: The Scriptures teach the value of wisdom:

People: **Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.** *Proverbs 3:16*

Pastor: We are the Lord's treasured possessions:

People: **Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name. "They will be Mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him."** *Malachi 3:16-17*

Pastor: We remember and rejoice in our baptism:

People: **John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."** *Luke 3:15-17*

Pastor: We learn the summary of the Gospel:

People: **For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** *John 3:16*

Pastor: We learn the lesson of love:

People: **This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.** *1 John 3:16*

Pastor: The mighty name of Jesus heals us from all our ills:

People: **By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.** *Acts 3:16*

Pastor: We learn that God lives in us:

People: **Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?** *1 Corinthians 3:16*

Pastor: We learn the purpose and value of our fellowship:

People: **Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.** *Colossians 3:16*

Pastor: We learn the source of our godliness:

People: **Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.** *1 Timothy 3:16*

Pastor: We learn the purpose and value of the Holy Scriptures:

People: **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.** *2 Timothy 3:16*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON HYMN "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

LSB 649

SERMON "Prepared for the Best Destiny"

1 Sam.1, Heb. 2, Lk. 2

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. That our faith may remain strong and our lives be conformed to Your holy will, teach us to study and ponder Your Holy Scriptures in our classrooms, in our homes, and in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: That our classrooms might be places that welcome the lost and enrich the poor in spirit, teach us to love as You have loved, accepting those who are different, nurturing the weak, and building relationships by forgiveness and gentleness. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: That we may trust in You for all good things, O Lord, and regularly ask Your blessing for others, teach us to pray. Lord, in Your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For the sick, especially ... we ask Your strength and healing. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For those with special joys or burdens, especially ... teach us to love and support these friends. **Lord in Your mercy,**

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

+ SACRAMENT +

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Gifts Christ Freely Gives"	LSB 602
"Shepherd of Tender Youth"	LSB 864
"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"	LSB 710
"Jesus, Lead Thou On"	LSB 718

BLESSING

Pastor: Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. *2 Thessalonians 3:16*

People: Amen.

Pastor: The blessing of Almighty God---the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit---be and abide with you always.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" LSB 922

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Pastor	Paul Hauser
Organist	Tami Mosher
Elders	Dick Bluemer & Larry Feusse
A/V	Katie Pinet
Acolyte	Kayla Goward
Ushers	Dale Rohde, Kevin Ross, Paul Bohn
Greeters	Jeanne Kade & Maxine Diener
Altar Guild	Chris Farrar & Arlene Rohn

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 71 Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion \$4,128 ~ Received for the Lord's Work \$3,430 = Loose Plate \$28, Envelopes \$2,252, Mission \$60, Maintenance \$190, Par. Rent \$900; Cap. Prj. \$45.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: Feb 8- Sally Wietfeldt, Feb 10- Leon Zastrow; Feb 11- Mac McKellar (his 87th).

Today's Memory Verse ~ "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24

Resources for Rachel ~ Door offering will be this morning following the worship service for our sponsored Missionary Rachel Meyer in Uganda.

125th Anniversary Celebration Dinner ~ Zion Lutheran Church was organized on February 17, 1895. In honor of this milestone we invite all members, past and present to gather on Sunday, February 16 for our 9:30 am worship service and be our guests for a Chicken and Swiss steak dinner served at 11:30 am. To help in our planning we ask that you RSVP with your name and number attending **TODAY**. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Thanks to all those who have already directed their Thrivent Choice dollars to Zion which goes into Zion's Capital Projects Fund. If you are an eligible member, another consideration is to direct Choice Dollars to Camp Lu Lay Lea. Call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" to be connected to a customer service rep. or go online to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You will need your Thrivent ID number or your social security number for proper identification. You can still designate 2020 dollars until March 31, 2020. After that any dollars not designated remain with Thrivent.

Pop Can Drive ~ A member of the Hemlock High School Pom Pon squad is collecting pop cans to raise funds needed to go and perform at Disney Land in California. Your cans may be dropped off in the barrel in the entryway. Your support is appreciated.