



St. Matthew LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where the welcome is wide and the love is real.

Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or need visual, audio, or mobility accommodations, please let a name-tagged usher know. We're excited about the many ministries of St. Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

Our Purpose:

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

Our Core Values:

Celebrating together in worship

Deepening our faith in Jesus

Engaging children and youth

Walking with our neighbors

Embracing one another as God created us

About today: We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and Sunday indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed).



These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

First Sunday in Lent March 9, 10:30 a.m., 2025

All We Need. ©2025 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. Adapted for St. Matthew by Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt and Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman.

PRELUDE

Deck Thyself, My Soul With Gladness

Fox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: People of God, what do you need today?

All: To embrace our vulnerability,

just as Jesus embraced our humanity.

Pastor: Then come, let us worship God,

All: who promises to answer when we call,

to be with us in trouble, to rescue us and honor us to show us God's salvation.

Pastor: We gather in the name of our

Triune God,

whose love encircles us, whose name saves us, whose wings shelter us,

All: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Trusting in our God, who knows our hearts and who provides

our need for grace and mercy, we confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done, and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved, In the name of Jesus Christ +, your sins are forgiven and you are entirely loved.

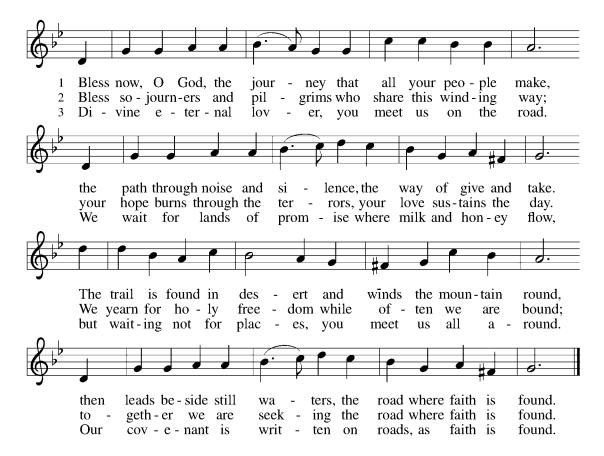
All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW#326 Dunstan

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the

communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated

During the singing of the Kyrie, Children second grade and under are invited to meet our children's leader at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Tender God, you emptied yourself of power in order to take on flesh in Jesus Christ. Open us to embrace our own vulnerability, so that we may discover how your strength is made perfect in weakness

All: Amen.

中 THE WORD 中

THE READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

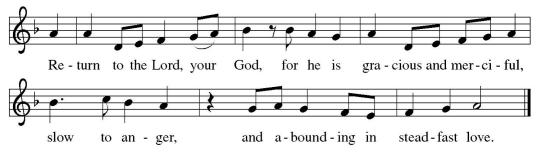
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (*Read Responsively*)

- ¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
 - ² you will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."
 - ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
 - no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.
 - ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.
 - ¹² Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.
 - ¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
 - ¹⁴ I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.
 - ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
 - ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

Leader: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Leader: Each petition concludes, "God, in your mercy," and the congregation responds, "receive our prayer."

PEACE

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

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

Children return from Children's Church.

MUSICAL OFFERING How Deep the Father's Love for Us Harlan/Townend Adult Choir

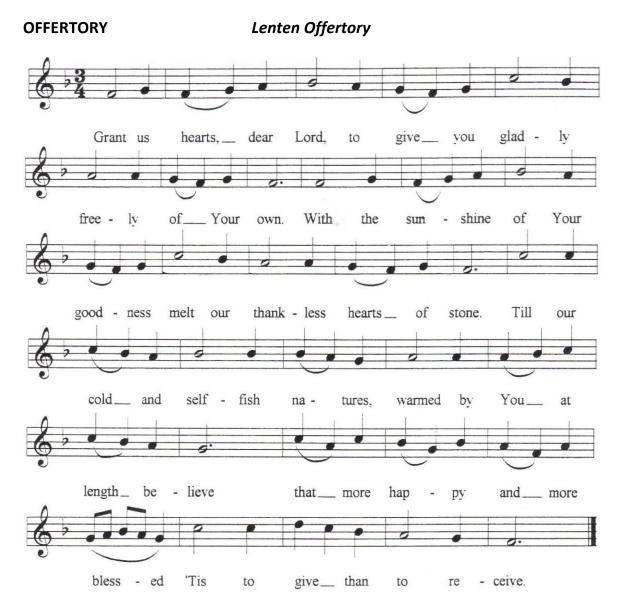
How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss the Father turns His face away, As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory. Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders; Ashamed I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished. I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom; But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer; But this I know with all my heart His wounds Have paid my ransom.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through

online giving on our website. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities

Please stand as you are able.



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: As we make our offerings, we pray:

All: God, you gave us what we needed today.

Now we offer a portion of these gifts,

A harvest of the love you planted.

Now bless our gifts and use them in your service.

Amen.

中 THE MEAL 中

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is not only right, but even needful

for us to thank you, God,

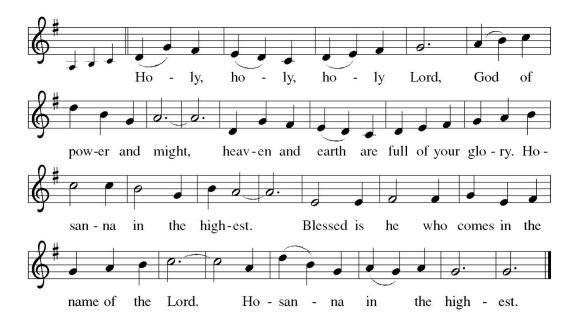
for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.

You open your hand to satisfy the needs

of everything that you have made,

and all of creation sings its thankful praise.

And so we join the echoing song.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

Individual packets are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

If you are unable to come forward, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

Continuous manner – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, "The body of Christ, given for you", and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) "The blood of Christ, shed for you", and drink it.

Children who do not yet receive communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

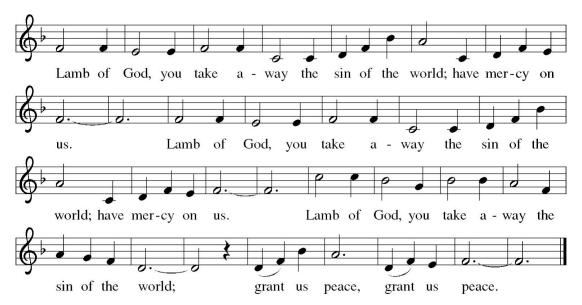
Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (Eat wafer)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (Drink wine)

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW#632 Watts/Croft



- 1 O God, our help in a ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un der the shad ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se cure;
- 3 Be fore the hills in or der stood or earth re ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou-sand a ges in your sight are like an eve-ning gone,



our shel-ter from the blast, and e - ter - nal home: storm-y our suf - fi - cient is vour arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure. from ev - er - last - ing end-less years the you are God, to same. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray,

All: O Jesus, you have fed us with the bread that has no price the precious gift of your own self.

Now send us like Mary with her perfume, prepared to give the best we have, to dignify the world you so loved.

Amen.

+ SENDING **+**

BLESSING

Pastor: Now may God,

who risks loving an imperfect people,

who forges weakness into divine strength,

who never leaves us or forsakes us,

bless you and sustain you.

Today God has answered your need, and now the Spirit sends you out to answer the world's need. Amen.

All: Amen.

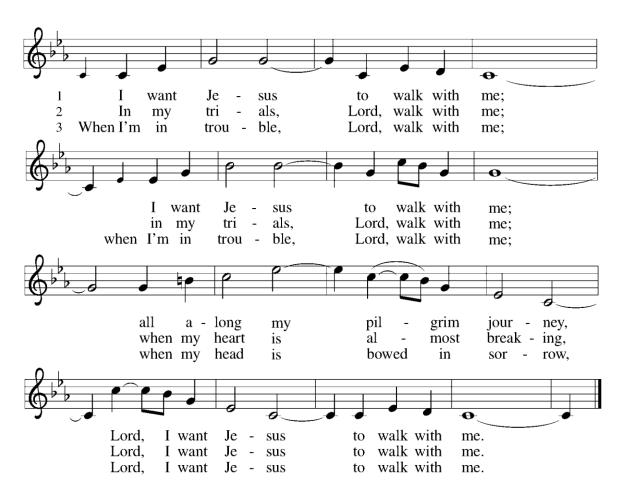
SENDING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW#325

African American Spiritual

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DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

If Thou but Suffer, God Will Guide Thee

Bach

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Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 – Also #A-708989 One License.net

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians	Adult Choir
Altar Flower Delivery	Doris Deitzel
Altar Guild	Doris Deitzel, Anna Marchio
Assisting Minister	Liam
Children's Church Leader	Amy Beck
Communion Assistants	Bobbie Lidard, Charley Lidard
Communion Preparers	Christine & David Myers
Couriers	Randy Kline, Sue Covert
Greeters	Doris Sterner, Vicki Wildasin
Lector	Tom Shultz
Live Stream	Doug West
Ushers	. Team 9 – Tim Peck, Hunter, Tyler, Elijah,
	William, Aaron, Addyson, Landen
Welcome Place	Lori Unger

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the first Bold Woman, Katy Luther by the Women of the ELCA; in loving memory of Smoke Sanders who would have celebrated his birthday on March 6 by his loving wife Kim and children Brianne, Rafe, Ryan, Katelyn, Becca and grandchildren Raelynn, Reece and Reid; in loving memory of Jeanne and Clair Livelsberger by Jo and Leo Hilbert; in loving memory of Merle L. Mummert by his children and grandchildren; in honor and memory of all Girl Scout leaders, assistant leaders, and committee members at St. Matthew Lutheran Church by Janice Peck; in loving memory of Walt Porowski by his loving wife Judy; in loving memory of my daughter Dawn Nace by Joyce Raubenstine.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Walt Porowski by his loving wife Judy.

PRAYER LIST: In our intercessory prayers we pray for individuals who have offered permission to have their names included. These names will be listed up to a month unless otherwise requested. After that time, prayers will continue for each person through our prayer chain. Newly added names will appear in bold. If you would like to be included in the prayers of the prayer chain **but not listed** in the bulletin, you may contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

Ken Warner	Joe Markle	Robert Mosely
Allison Luckenbaugh	Lucas Cherry	Faye Snyder
Dan Weigle	June Hutchison	Laurel Bell
Mike Cromer	Elaine Sheely	Tom Bell
Mary Jane Legore	Brad Maloney	Nancy Leister
Cianna Cuaith		

Cienna Smith

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning March 9:

Sunday: Luke 4:1-13 Thursday: Philippians 3:2-12 Monday: 1 John 2:1-6 Friday: Philippians 3:17-20 Tuesday: 2 Peter 2:4-21 Saturday: Matthew 23:37-39

Wednesday: Luke 21:34 – 22:6



CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR KATHY

Please join in congratulating Pastor Kathy on her 5 year anniversary as our pastor. Her passion and her leadership continue to make our congregation members more dedicated to learning and leaning on Christ Jesus.

We are a very fortunate Congregation!



USHERS

On March 16, 2025, in the Nave we will have a short meeting during Faith Connections at 9:30 a.m. All ushers are invited and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions contact Tim Peck at *youth@stmattlutheran.org* or call the church office at 717-637-7101 ext.230

WOMEN'S RETREAT SIGN-UP

Taking place on Saturday, March 22. Please sign-up using this form or the one at the Hospitality Desk by March 15. More information can be found on the Announcements Sheet.

Name	Phone Number
E-mail	
Mailing Address	Food Allergies
SI	IGN-UP FORM
email the church office at info@stmattle	you, tear off this page and put in the offering basket or utheran.org, listing what you are signing up for and the ee Announcements Page for more details.
name, e-mail, and/or mailing address)	updates and/or newsletter in the mail. (Provide
Name	Phone Number
E-mail	
Mailing Address	

EASTER GARDEN: Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by donating to the Easter Garden are asked to complete and return the form below with \$10 per listing to the church office by Monday, March 31. After the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, those who have paid for honorariums or memorials for the garden can take a flower for themselves or to give to someone. If you are unable to be here after the 10:30 service, you can stop in Tuesday thru Thursday of Easter week, between 9:00 and 1:00 p.m. to pick up a flower.

After the cost of the plants is memorials/honorariums will	met, the balance of the be sent to the local Tender Care.	* 5
I would like to sponsor an Ear		Endler
Name(s) being honored or m	emorialized (Please print clearly):	Golfano.
Given by:		
Envelope Number	Amount Given \$	

Please include \$10 per listing. Make checks payable to **St. Matthew Lutheran Church** with "Easter Garden" in the memo line. Deadline is **March 31**.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

www.StMattLutheran.org 30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331 717-637-7101

General Mailbox: 221

info@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext 231 pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229 pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext 225 nicksong@comcast.net

Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext 235 bboellner@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext 236 dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

> Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext 230 youth@stmattlutheran.org

Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232 msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator, ext 222 hannahc@stmattlutheran.org

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FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." 4When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, 5you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. 6When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors: the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 1050 now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. "Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹⁵For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where 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. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ¹Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.""

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And 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. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹Then 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, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

11 and

'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹⁵When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.