A reading from the book of Genesis chapter 3 verses 1-7:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

People: You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

People: You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Leader: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

People: Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

Leader: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

People: If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

Leader: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

People: even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
**   according to Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*