

Third Wednesday in Lent – 2025

Wednesday, March 19 at 11 am & 7 pm

O Christ, You Walked the Road



Text: LSB 424 and NAS 1995

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Introduction: Dear friends, this sermon focuses on a popular Lenten hymn: **O Christ, You Walked the Road**.

What is the overall theme? **THE ULTIMATE FIGHT**

- You have heard of **Ultimate Fighting**: It's “a full-contact combat sport that allows fighters to use a wide range of techniques... in a cage-like octagon” (Generative AI).
- Jesus came to enter the **Ultimate Fight**: Satan versus The God-Man! Jesus – *the God-Man, our sinless substitute* – fought the Ultimate Fight to win our salvation!

As I read and comment on the words, and share some key passages, let us better understand ♦ what Jesus did for us and ♦ how this hymn is relevant in our lives today.

1. **Christ Experienced All Aspects of this World:**

- a. **O Christ, You walked the road, Our wandering feet must go.** // Jesus had to be like us: “...since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He

might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil..." (Heb. 2:14).

- b. **You faced with us temptation's power, And fought our ancient foe.** // The various experiences of life bring various temptations. Jesus' **great suffering** brought a **great temptation** to STOP those who were causing His excruciating pain. "...since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted" (Heb. 2:18). We are not on our own; as Jesus experienced great temptation, *He can help us when tempted*.

2. **Let Us Satisfy Our Hungry Hearts with God's Word:**

- a. **No bread of earth alone, Can fill our hungering hearts.**
- i. Our Stomachs Hunger for Physical Food: *We feel it and hear it*, but our hearts hunger for **truth**, for **eternity**. The Bible says that God has set eternity in our hearts (Eccl. 3:11).
- ii. However: As a dying person loses his physical appetite **before** he dies, people who persistently ✦ ignore the Holy Spirit and ✦ reject God's word will cease having hungry hearts **before** they die 😞.
- b. **Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.** // "...the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword... and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). Therefore, we should **gladly** and **daily** **READ** – **THINK** – **APPLY** the word of God – because, *through that word*, God will gift us with the things we need the MOST: ❤️ forgiveness, ❤️ assurance, ❤️ peace, and ❤️ guidance!

3. **Let Our Trust Be In God, His Word, and His Christ:**

a. **No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.**

i. **Matthew 16:1-2, 4** “The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them... ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.’” // By God’s grace we understand the Jonah—Jesus’ connection.

ii. The Rich Man In Torment: **Luke 16:27-29** “...I beg you, father [Abraham], that you send [Lazarus] to my father's house-- I have five brothers-- in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets [the OT Scriptures]; **let them hear them.**”

b. **Lord, help us place our trust alone, In Your unswerving love.** // From creation, we know there is an awesome God! From the Bible, which IS God’s word, we know about God’s love, God’s Christ, God’s forgiveness, and God’s amazing offer of eternal life!

4. **Let Us Put the Will of Christ Over Our Own: When lures of easy gain, With promise brightly shine, Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.**

a. Many are busy with ✓ their work, ✓ their food, ✓ their clothes, and ✓ their toys. We can permit our lives to be consumed such things – resulting in ☹worry, ☹guilt, and ☹a godless eternity. **OR**

b. We can do what Jesus said: “**But seek first [God’s] kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you**” (Matt. 6:33). // If you do it your

way, it ✨will make sense and ✨may seem good for this life, *but you will regret it forever!* Jesus said:
“...whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” (Mk. 8:35-36).

5. **Let Us Trust in Christ to Help Us Against the Evil One:**

O Christ, You walked the road, Our wandering feet must go. Stay with us through temptation’s hour, To fight our ancient foe.

- a. What did Jesus say to Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane? “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41). Lenski explained the meaning: “To **watch** is to be **ready in advance**, and to **pray** is to **receive from God the help needed in the critical hour**” (Lenski, 1041).
- b. As Jesus asked His inner circle for help, **so let us ask Jesus for help** – “To fight our ancient foe.” // Now, and throughout our lives, let us: “Put on the full armor of God, so that [we] will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11).

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, You came as the **Ultimate Fighter** to win the **Ultimate Fight on our behalf** – **TYSVM!** As the forces of evil are working now to deceive us and mislead us, *please keep us in God’s word daily and focused on You always!*

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