

## Faith and Family Are Priorities for Cooper Kupp

In a recent ESPN profile, Kupp credits Anna, his wife of six years, for his pro career. During college at Eastern Washington, Anna worked full-time so Cooper could focus on football. "I really believe I may not be...in the NFL if it wasn't for her and what she has inspired in me and pushed me to do," Cooper says. The couple, who have two young sons, are active in charity causes. Kupp comes from a family that loves football and Jesus. Both his dad and grandpa played in the NFL. Craig Kupp, Cooper's dad, said in 2016 that faith "is part of who we are." He added, "Our relationship with Jesus is the center of our life."

Cooper Kupp's Christian faith helps him deal with the violent, often sporadic nature of pro football. "I couldn't imagine stepping onto a football field and not having a full body-mind-spirit belief that I am exactly where I am supposed to be, and doing exactly what I am supposed to be doing," he says. "My faith in God and his plan for me allows me to play freely without doubt or fear." On February 13, Kupp will play in Super Bowl 56 on his home field, SoFi Stadium, as the L.A. Rams face the AFC champion Cincinnati Bengals.



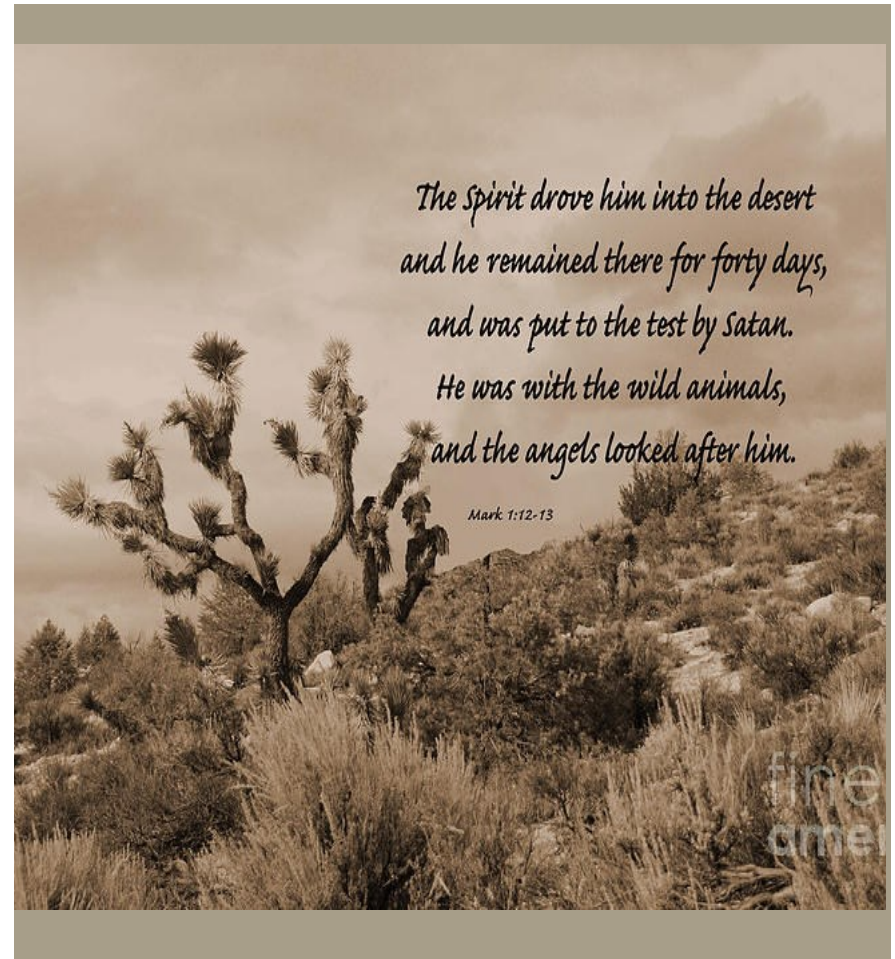
February 6, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## The Temptation of Christ In Our Place

*The Spirit drove him into the desert  
and he remained there for forty days,  
and was put to the test by Satan.  
He was with the wild animals,  
and the angels looked after him.*

Mark 1:12-13



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art

# Order of Service

## Announcements

Welcome

Missions Report

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God". . . .Martin Luther

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Song of Praise: "Victor's Crown". . . . . Zschech/Houghton/Jobe

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

The Law of God: 1 John 1:6, 8, 10

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: John 11:25-26

Song of Renewal: "Christ Will Be My Hideaway"

. . . . . Chester/Kauflin/Stiff/Zimmer/Hudson/Fuller

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: *Mark 1:12-13 (ESV)*

Prayer

The Sermon "The Temptation of Christ"

In Our Place

Song of Communion

"Lamb of God". . . . . Hansen/Kauflin/LaChance

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

. . . . . Robinson/Farren/Thompson

Benediction

**God's Gracious Provision 1/30/2022**

Attendance: 37

Offering: \$2554.00

*Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.*

## Lauded LA Rams Receiver Cooper Kupp Pursues 'A Crown That Will Last Forever'

By **Stephanie Martin**

February 2, 2022

Thanks to a record-breaking "triple crown" season, Cooper Kupp has helped position his team to win a Super Bowl ring. But the Los Angeles Rams wide receiver has his sights set much higher. Kupp, 28, is an outspoken Christian who literally wears his faith on his sleeve—and head. After a Rams playoff victory last month, Kupp donned a hat from his "Crown Merch" fashion line that references 1 Corinthians 9:25—"Do it to get a crown that will last forever."

### Cooper Kupp Remains Humble, Faithful Despite Success

Kupp, a third-round draft pick in 2017, was recently named to his first Pro Bowl. That honor caps a stellar season in which Kupp became the first 2,000-yard receiver in NFL history. He's also the fourth player since 1970 to win the receiving Triple Crown, finishing the 17-game regular season with 145 catches, 1,947 receiving yards, and 16 receiving touchdowns.

In post-game press conferences, Kupp deflects credit to teammates and is open about his faith. After a reporter inquired whether the standout athlete felt underappreciated, Kupp replied, "The verse that was on my mind was, 'The heart of man chooses his path but the Lord establishes his steps,'" citing Proverbs 16:9. "It just gave me so much freedom to go out there and play free, give everything I had [and] know the results rested in [God]."

Kupp also has relied on his faith amid injuries and rehab. Due to a torn ACL, he was sidelined when the Rams played in the 2019 Super Bowl, losing 13-3 to the Patriots. On Twitter in 2018, Kupp posted a photo of him being carted off the field. "Rejoice in your suffering, for through suffering comes perseverance!" he wrote. "Thank you all for your prayers, we are blessed by your covering. I refuse to be defeated! God is GOOD! #EyesAbove."

In a film for Football Sunday 2019, Kupp said of his healing process, "Being able to every day find that joy in life that only comes from the Spirit—there's growth happening." To CBN last year, Kupp said, "At the very basic levels of my life—as a husband, as a father, as a football player—knowing how much of a failure I am at these things, if it wasn't for my faith, if it wasn't for knowing that Christ has told me who I am in his eyes...that he's bridged every gap and that he's called me to even greater things."

(Continued on next page)

## Upcoming Events

“Mark thinks of the temptation, the being with the animals and the service of the angels as continuous events in the course of which all the forces of God and Satan are simultaneously present.” This is an appropriate description, for the Marcan account of the ministry of Jesus is dominated by his confrontation with demonic forces and the sustaining of temptation. Jesus’ obedience to God is affirmed and sustained *in the wilderness*, the precise place where Israel’s rebellion had brought death and alienation, in order that the new Israel of God may be constituted.<sup>1</sup>

### The Power of God in the Wilderness

The battle to put the evil genie that crushes the hopes of humanity back into the bottle has begun. It is not enough for God to win over human hearts and for them to repent and to confess their sins. Evil forces organized under the prince of the power of the air (see Phil. 2:9–10) must be defeated before the kingdom of God can be established. The power of God as long promised breaks into the world to conquer the powers of evil that imprison, maim, and distort human life.

If the battle takes place on the cosmic stage, we also learn that God has a cosmic plan discernible from the Scriptures. Few today bother reading or studying the script, yet it is vital because the kingdom of God manifests itself in disarming ways. The power of God appears in the desert, in weakness, in ones who come out of nowhere and will be handed over. God’s activity has been hidden from human beings, and even when it is revealed through Jesus, many will be unable to see. Those who do see will take comfort when they pass through the desert. They will know that Jesus has already been there and knows the way. All they have to do is follow.<sup>2</sup>

### Now you Know

This passage is for you because the Redeemer has come. Jesus has faced temptation for you. In Him, there is forgiveness; but in Him, there's even more; there's power to say, “No!” Are you availing yourself of that power? Are you living in that power? Are you living in the grace of the second Adam? In moments of jealousy or anger or doubt--do you rise and say, “My Messiah has defeated the enemy on my behalf, and I will stand and say, ‘No!’” and go in another direction? Jesus bore the full force of the sin and temptation of a fallen world so that we would have forgiveness, and we would have power. May we live in that forgiveness, and may we exercise that power! Paul Tripp

<sup>1</sup>Lane, W. L. (1974). *The Gospel of Mark* (p. 62). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>2</sup>Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 57). Zondervan Publishing House.

**Tuesday, February 8 6:30-8:00 P.M. Youth Group** will meet at the Deicherts

**Sunday, February 13 6:00 PM Super Bowl Party** at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

**Wednesday, February 16 7:00 P.M. Men’s Small Group**  
At the home of Dave Frame

**Sunday, February 20 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer**  
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St

**February 25-27 Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Sankanac**  
Pick up a flyer at the Welcome table.

**Sunday, March 6 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting of GCC**  
Everyone is encouraged to attend. Lunch included.

**March 18-19 Men’s Retreat**

### Crossing Cultures International David and Mindy Nelson



#### PHILIPPINES

Praise God for the three CCI equipping classes that finished their formal training with a combined total of 34 graduates in January. Each class took 3 to 5 years to complete, punctuated by interruptions due to the pandemic and natural calamities. The trainers of these classes are also CCI graduates. The students planted at least seven churches while undergoing training.

#### LAOS

CCI Laos is grateful for the funds sent from CCI USA for the relief of the needy. They bought food and handed out clothing to help those affected by Covid-19, and in doing so, they showed the love of Christ through the CCI ministry. Pray for more opportunities to show God's love and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around them.

#### DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden

Pray for the young man from Kutztown University who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.

#### CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

Pray for Steve and Kristen Scholl as they begin their ministry with CRU.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . .February 6, 2022

- Praise that the mother of Koreen Mace's niece, Julia, is doing much better. Pray for God's continued strength and healing for Julia's mother.
- Praise that Cindy Yorgey is making good progress as she recovers from Covid. Pray for God's strength for Cindy.
- Pray for Sam Mace's brother, Bob, and his family. The family is experiencing serious health issues, and difficult decisions need to be made. Pray the family would sense God is with them amid all that is occurring in the family.
- Praise that Mike Row, who is in Berkshire Rehabilitation Center for PT, is doing well. He has an evaluation on February 8<sup>th</sup> and will find out if he needs another week of rehab. Pray for continued healing and strength for Mike.
- Pray for the family of Lizette Barret, the wife of a coworker of RuthAnn McCaffrey's husband. Lizette passed away on January 14<sup>th</sup> due to Covid. Pray for God's strength, peace and comfort for Lizette's husband, Eric.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace's friend, Walter, who had an intervention. Walter lost his wife and is struggling at this time. Pray that Walter went to Teen Challenge and received the help he desperately needs.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for healing for Evan and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength, stamina, and a positive outlook with PT using his new prosthetics. Pray for Austin as he navigates his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny has started physical therapy on his arm. He has received a good report from an MRI on his brain. Pray that he will soon be able to have the procedure to get the results of his bladder cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

The all-seeing eye of God beheld our deplorable state; infinite pity touched the heart of the Father of mercies; and infinite wisdom laid the plan of our recovery. - David Brainerd

## Message

### “The Temptation of Christ” In Our Place

*Mark 1:12–13 (ESV)*

*The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.*

#### Review

With the Spirit descending from heaven and with the words that he speaks, God the Father publicly sets the seal on the mission of his Son. He smiles down at the Son he has sent into the world out of his love to save it. Jesus himself knows his unique qualification for his mission. Looking back, we too can understand and know. This is the Lord Jesus, who is both God and man so that he is able to stand in the gap that separates us from God: the man who can identify with us in our weaknesses; but who is also God the Son, with the authority and power of God, the authority that will be seen throughout his ministry as he heals diseases and drives out demons with a word—the one who is qualified and able to save us.

#### Into the Wilderness

The account of the baptism is followed by that of Jesus' trial in the wilderness. The intimate connection between the two events is established by the introductory phrase “and at once.” Jesus' expulsion into the desert is the necessary consequence of his baptism; it is the same Spirit who descended upon Jesus at his baptism who now forces him to penetrate more deeply into the wilderness.

#### Ongoing Temptation by Satan

It is significant that Mark does not report the victory of Jesus over Satan, nor the end of the temptation. It is the evangelist's distinctive understanding that Jesus did not win the decisive victory during the forty days nor did he cease to be tempted. Jesus is thrust into the wilderness in order to be confronted with Satan and temptation. It is this confrontation which is itself important, since it is sustained throughout Jesus' ministry. This explains why Mark does not say anything about the content of the temptation: his whole Gospel constitutes the explanation of the manner in which Jesus was tempted.