

GOSPEL

Lk 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him. 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Reflections on the Gospel



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / C

10 MARCH 2019

TEMPTATION UNDER THE GUISE OF GOOD

Lent is a time when we are invited to enter with Jesus into the desert. We go there to share both his conflict and his victory, to feel something of our own weakness and temptations, to increase our capacity to make good decisions (discernment).

The three temptations put to Jesus are subtle. Like all temptations to which good people are vulnerable, they come under the guise of good. Playing upon his status as Messiah and Son of God, the devil makes suggestions that are, in their own way, appropriate.

Jesus is hungry. Just this once let him use his miraculous powers for himself rather than for others. That will strengthen him for his mission.

What about a shortcut to world power? That would save a lot of trouble and suffering. Just a small price. Worship the devil not God.

Get your messianic career off to a flying start with a leap from the Temple. If you're the Messiah angels will see that you come to no harm and it will make a great impression.

Conscious of the true direction of his mission, Jesus dismisses each suggestion instantly. He cannot redeem the world by using the world's own techniques, manipulated by the devil. Son of God though he is, he will tread the ordinary path of human life, entering fully into the pain and evil of the world to transform it from within by the power of divine love. Only this way can he fulfil the Father's will to reclaim it for true humanity.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Deut 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

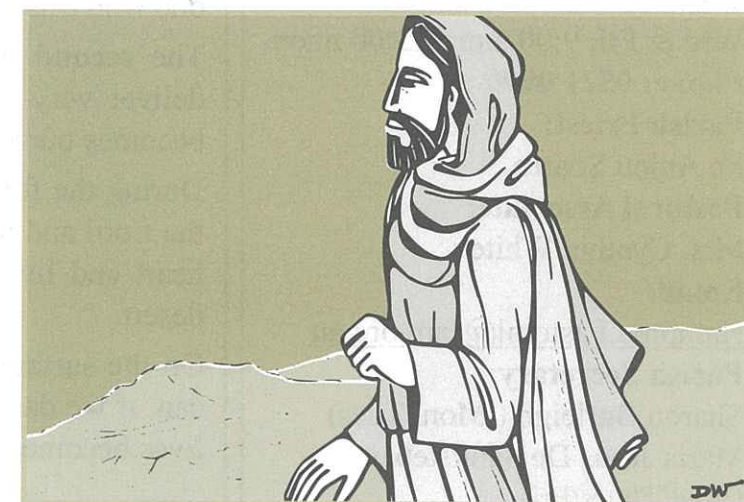
"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 90:1-2, 10-15. R. v. 15

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High / and abides in the shade of the Almighty / says to the Lord: 'My refuge, / my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **R.**
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, / no plague approach where you dwell. / For you has he commanded his angels, / to keep you in all your ways. **R.**
3. They shall bear you upon their hands / lest you strike your foot against a stone. / On the lion and the viper you will tread / and trample the young lion and the dragon. **R.**



4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; / protect him for he knows my name. / When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' / I will save him in distress and give him glory. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**