

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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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / C

6 MARCH 2022

CONFESSION OF FAITH

It is said that without the faculty of memory there can be no sense of identity. We don't know who we are or where we are going without knowing where we have been. For the people of Israel, it was critical to remember with gratitude the saving acts of God that had brought them to the land of promise, passing from slavery to freedom. Today's text from Deuteronomy was Israel's first creed and it played an important role in forming Israel's identity as a people cherished and chosen to be God's people in a unique way.

In the temptation scene, we see Jesus coming to terms with his identity as God's Son. Where was his life going? How was he to live as Son of God? For 40 days the devil searches and probes, entices, and challenges. Ultimately, Jesus proclaims that God is the source of his life, the devil's offer of power an illusion, and forcing God's hand is not acceptable for the person of faith.

In writing to the Christian community of Rome, Paul had to deal with the question of the identity of Christians and their relationship to the people of Israel and the Jewish law. While the people of Israel continued to have a special place in God's plans, Paul knew that the law that had been given to Moses now played a secondary role for Christians. Paul makes it clear that due to God's graciousness both Jews and Gentiles can be saved by means of faith in Jesus.

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!