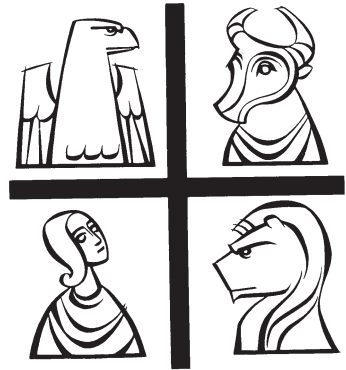


# Reading Luke in Lent

## Gospel of Luke 4:1-13

### The Temptation of Jesus

1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,  
returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the  
wilderness  
2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil.  
And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.  
3 The devil said to him,  
'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'  
4 And Jesus answered him,  
"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"  
5 And the devil took him up  
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,  
6 and said to him,  
'To you I will give all this authority and their glory,  
for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.  
7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'  
8 And Jesus answered him,  
"It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"  
9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him,  
'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,  
10 for it is written,  
'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,'  
11 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'  
12 And Jesus answered him,  
"It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"  
13 And when the devil had ended every temptation,  
he departed from him until an opportune time.



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## Reflection

Jesus, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, is led into the wilderness. Luke has just made a connection between Jesus and Adam who was also tempted but failed and was cast out of paradise. The other connection is with the people of Israel who wandered 40 years in the desert and again succumbed to the temptations on route.

The first temptation is whether Jesus will use his own powers to satisfy his own needs rather than be a servant of others; in the second he offered power and glory but though this will ultimately be his first he must suffer the cross. The last temptation takes place at the Temple, where the Gospel began and where it will end. The devil quotes from Psalm 90 (91): 12, and, perhaps, is ignorant of the following verses where the viper and the dragon are trampled upon. Jesus responds with an another echo of the Exodus, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'

- Putting others first, being ready to follow the path God leads and trusting in God: what are your challenges this Lent?

## Prayer

Lord our God,  
you alone do we worship,  
only your word gives life.  
Sustain your Church on its Lenten journey.

When we walk through the desert of temptation,  
strengthen us to renounce the power of evil.  
When our faith is tested by doubt,  
illumine our hearts with Easter's bright promise.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

Amen.

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