

Readings + First Sunday in Lent, year C + March 9, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as the place where the name of God dwells. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and the LORD brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.

¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalmody Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty – **you will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."**

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation, **no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.

They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Second Reading Romans 10:8b-13

Paul writes:

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in the Lord will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on God. ¹³ For,

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Holy Gospel Luke 4:1-13

Matthew and Luke:*

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered the devil, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led Jesus up and showed him in an instant all the dominions of the world.

⁶ And the devil said to Jesus, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.

⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered the devil, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only the Lord.’”

⁹ Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, and placed 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,

‘God will command the angels concerning you, to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered the devil, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ Having finished every test, the devil departed from Jesus until an opportune time.

** Mark also tells of the temptation of Jesus, but without description of any specifics, just that “he was tempted by Satan.” Luke reverses Matthew’s order for the second and third temptations. Also, Luke says that afterward the devil (“Satan” in Mark) left him for an opportune time; Matthew and Mark say only that angels ministered to him.*