

## First Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Reading 1: [Dt 26:4-10](#)

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15.](#)

Reading II: [Rom 10:8-13](#)

Gospel: [Lk 4:1-13](#)

Readings may be found on the US Bishop's website:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/030622.cfm>



Jesus in the desert

The First Sunday of Lent in each lectionary cycle presents Jesus in the desert experiencing temptations. The first temptation presented to Jesus invites him to serve his own needs rather than use his power to serve the reign of God. Jesus responds to the temptation by quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy (8:3) that people live by the Word of God not bread alone. This temptation will arise again when Jesus is on the cross and the rulers will call him to save himself and come down from the cross.

The second temptation invites Jesus to use his power for earthly political purposes. Satan offers all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him. Jesus again replies with a line from Deuteronomy (6:13) that you shall worship the Lord, your God. Jesus refused to establish the reign of God in a human way. Jesus stays faithful to his mission of inviting people into relationship rather than imposing the reign of God.

Thirdly, the temptation focuses on using power for fame and glory. Satan invites Jesus to do something spectacular and even quotes Psalm 91 regarding how God will not let anything to him. Jesus again quotes for Deuteronomy (6: 16-17) about not using God for his benefit but being faithful to the charge he has been given and by being obedient to God's plan.

These temptations have been part of challenges faced by people throughout the ages. Numerous times people have tried to make God serve their needs. People have decided that they had a better plan than God did and that they would do it their way. Various rulers have attempted to impose laws stating that God wanted them to do so. The challenge for every believer is to honestly pray, as Jesus does in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, thy will be done."

The first reading is from the book of Deuteronomy. Moses is teaching the people an important lesson. Do not forget what God has done for you! Moses commands them to remember how God freed them from slavery to the Egyptians and calls them to recognize that the land that they are about to inhabit is a gift from God. Because of all that God has done for you, you must respond to God. Moses describes how they should offer back to God the first fruits of their harvest. In contemporary life, we are challenged to give of ourselves, to use our gifts and abilities to further God's work. This shows the way to keep life in balance and live by one's priorities.

The second reading is from the Letter to the Romans. Paul is expressing the importance of entering into a deep trusting reliance with God. Paul speaks about believing with the heart. It is not just an idea that one espouses but a commitment from the core of one's being. God's mercy is infinite and has no restrictions. Paul highlights this by saying that there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. Paul built his earlier life as a Pharisee around distinguishing himself from the gentiles (Greeks). He had to surrender that for God is the Lord of all and all one needs to do is entrust one's self to God.

### Reflection Questions:

How have you been tempted to use God for your purposes or abuse the power that you have for your own benefit?

What alternative gods does our culture offer for us to worship?

Take time to look back over your life, particularly in recent months. For what are you grateful?

What difference does your Christian faith make in how you understand the goal of life?

### Themes

Gratitude

Life of Faith

Temptations

Fasting

### Prayer Suggestions:

For the Church: that we may be faithful children of God and remain single-minded in seeking to do God's will

For all Christians: that our lives may manifest our trust of God and that we may be witnesses to Christ' transforming love by the way we live

For a spirit of gratitude: that we may recognize and give thanks for all of God's gifts to us and place them in the service of the Gospel

For all who exercise power: that they may be good stewards of the authority entrusted to them and use their power for the common good

### Reflecting on the Rite of Election or the Call to Continuing Conversion

What words, actions, or movements spoke to you?

What impact did hearing your name called have on you?

(For the Elect) What did expressing your intention to receive the sacraments mean to you?

What did the presence and affirmation of your godparents or sponsors mean to you?

What was your reaction to the affirmation of the whole assembly to your desire to receive sacraments?

Did any of the intercessions touch you or move you?

How did this ritual help you in your journey toward the sacraments?

(Godparents and Sponsors) What did your pledge to support and sustain them mean to you?