

Sunday 26th February 2022

First Sunday of Lent



Our Gospel reading this week is about what Jesus did after his Baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, when a voice had confirmed that he was God's Son. Jesus needed time and space to think about how he should proclaim his message of God's love, so he retreated into the desert wilderness.

Matthew tells the story of what happened next. You can listen to the reading, or read it on today's readings sheet.

The voice of temptation is at work in Jesus, as he considers how to approach his ministry. We hear how he overcomes three temptations.

Firstly, after 40 days without food, Jesus was absolutely starving. Anything was going to look to him like something to eat...even the stones on the ground. They reminded him of bread and he knew that he could misuse the power he had to turn the stones into bread, to satisfy his own hunger. Did he do this? No. Jesus knew that, as humans, we need more than physical food to live. His message would be that we need emotional and spiritual nourishment too. We need the love of God, found in God's Word – the Scriptures. Jesus knew the Scriptures well and was able to use the Word of God to resist this temptation:

"One does not live by bread alone."

Jesus knew he had the power to do all sorts of things that would prove just who he was. He imagined himself right at the top of the Temple and knew that, if he threw himself off, God would protect him. After all, it said so in the Scriptures!

“He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

But Jesus knew that testing whether God would save him would be wrong and wasn't the right way to bring people to God.

He recalled another verse:

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”

Wandering in the desert, hungry and alone, Jesus came to a high place, where he could see for miles. It was as if he could see all the nations of the world laid out before him. Jesus knew that, if he chose a bad way of being a leader, worshipping power, bullying people and serving the forces of evil, he could rule over many people. Again, his knowledge of the Scriptures helped him to do what was right:

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”

Jesus finished his time in the desert without giving in to the temptation to do things the human way. He would go about his ministry in God's way.

We can learn from Jesus about doing things the heavenly way, rather than the earthly way. We are all human, but when we are tempted to do things we know are wrong, we can ask for God's help.

We keep the 40 days of Lent to try and grow closer to God ourselves, as we prepare for Easter. Many people learn more about God during this time by reading the Bible and spending time in prayer.

 **What will you do?**

 **How about:**

Learning the three Scripture quotations in red above, to remind you of the temptations of Jesus?

Reading the story of Jesus in your Bible during Lent? You can find this in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. You might find the Gospel of Mark shorter and most fun to read!

Trying to spend a short time every day talking to and listening to God (clue: we have two ears and only one mouth, because we learn more when we listen!)

🙏 Our prayer for this first week of Lent is today's "Prayer over the Gifts" as the priest asks God's blessing on the bread and wine offered on the altar:

God of the desert,
 as we follow Jesus into the unknown, may we recognize the tempter
 when he comes;
 let it be your bread we eat,
 your world we serve
 and you alone we worship;
 we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
 Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

SOTNE

--	--	--	--

1 8

BERAD

--	--	--	--

13 2

CTIY

--	--	--

11 14 5

TPMELE

--	--	--	--	--

7 3

AGNELS

--	--	--	--	--

6 10

WOPSHIR

--	--	--	--	--	--

15 12 8 4

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10


OF

--	--	--	--	--	--

11 12 13 14 15 1

T	S	E	N	O	T	S	E	S	E
E	T	H	U	N	G	R	Y	S	T
Y	T	R	O	F	A	S	T	E	D
P	S	L	E	G	N	A	S	N	E
L	I	A	N	T	A	S	E	R	V
I	L	H	D	E	T	P	M	E	T
V	D	I	S	T	A	L	F	D	I
E	V	I	L	R	S	O	T	L	L
D	S	E	V	A	O	L	O	I	E
T	P	M	E	T	E	W	O	W	L

WILDERNESS
 TEMPTED
 DEVIL
 FASTED
 FORTY
 HUNGRY
 STONES
 LOAVES
 ANGELS
 FOOT
 SATAN
 WORSHIP



The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

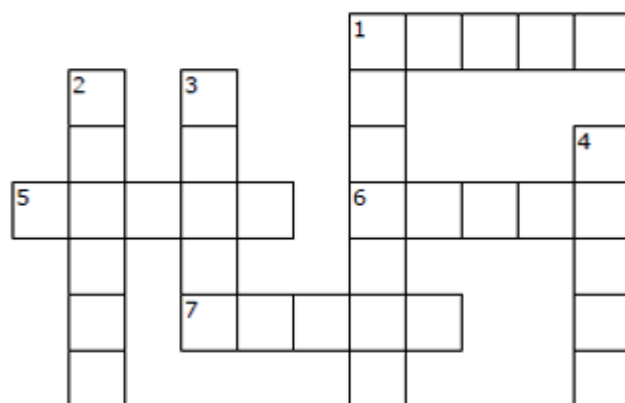


- ___ 1. To feel a need or desire for food
A. hungry B. tempt C. worship D. bread
- ___ 2. A small rock
A. hungry B. devil C. world D. stone
- ___ 3. A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
A. bread B. worship C. angel D. tempt
- ___ 4. To try to get someone to do wrong
A. stone B. bread C. hungry D. tempt
- ___ 5. To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
A. tempt B. devil C. worship D. angel
- ___ 6. A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
A. bread B. hungry C. angel D. stone
- ___ 7. The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God
A. worship B. world C. angel D. devil
- ___ 8. The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
A. bread B. tempt C. world D. stone

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
5. A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
6. A small rock
7. The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God

DOWN

1. To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
2. To feel a need or desire for food
3. A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
4. To try to get someone to do wrong

hungry	bread	worship	devil
stone	tempt	angel	world



Jesus' Temptation