**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAR. 8-9, 2025**

First Sunday of Lent

**Gospel Reading**

Lk 4: 1-13

Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan

and was led by the Spirit into the desert

for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during

those days, and when they were over he was hungry.

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this

stone to become bread.”

Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread

alone.’”

Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the

world in a single instant.

The devil said to him, “I shall give to you all this power and their

glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to

whomever I wish.

All this will be yours, if you worship me.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “It is written:

‘You shall worship the Lord, your God,

And him alone shall you serve.’”

Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet

of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw

yourself down from here,

for it is written:

‘He will command his angels concerning you,

to guard you,’

and

‘With their hands they will support you,

lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him in reply, “It also says, ‘You shall not put the

Lord, your God, to the test.’”

When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed

from him for a time.

**Intercession**

May we draw on God’s grace this Lenten season to overcome temptation, spend more time in fasting and prayer, and offer alms, including support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

Rugged independence is a defining characteristic of our country. The U.S. is the “land of opportunity” where, through hard work and initiative, anyone can improve his or her lot in life. This “can do” attitude fuels our dreams and the actions we take to achieve our dreams. But the story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert reminds us that our strength and deliverance come from God. His love and grace, not our own will or fortitude, are what keep us strong in the face of temptation and society’s pull away from Him.

Jesus was not alone during His desert time. He was “[f]illed with the holy Spirit” and “led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days.” Like Christ, we are never alone. We may feel like we are during the difficult times of our lives, but our Lord is always with us, sustaining and strengthening us. His love is our armor.

We can share Christ’s protective love with those who need it when we support the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal. When you are praying during this Lenten season, please consider the BAA as a way of giving alms.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

The desert can be a place of dryness, of barrenness. Temptation is often strongest when we are weakest and in such a place as our own personal deserts. But God assures us that when we call, “He will answer” (Psalm 91:15), for “[H]e will shelter you with His pinions, and under His wings you may take refuge” (Psalm 91: 4).

Jesus’ temptation in the desert is yet another example of His willingness to suffer humility out of love for us. He serves as a model of what trust in God looks like. He overcomes Satan’s false promises in the company of the Holy Spirit and with God’s help. When we trust in God and invite the Spirit into our lives, we seek to follow Christ’s example. We then can be bearers of Christ’s consolation to others, such as supporting the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, which brings His light and protection and strength to those it serves.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Desert scene at sunrise

Header: “’One does not live by bread alone.’” – Luke 4:4

Copy: Communion with God is what makes us full and happy! When we live for the richness God offers, not the false promises of this world, we have a full life. Please support the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal so others can experience God’s grace through the programs it supports.