

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 1:9-15

This is Mark's account of the temptation of Christ. It is two verses and provides a summary of what happened. (Those who put together our lessons clearly couldn't use only two verses, so...) Mark tells us that Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan for 40 days. There is no conflict. Matthew and Luke only tell us about the three final temptations. Satan spent his time in a constant attempt to overcome the work and the person of Jesus, just as he spends his time in a constant attempt to overcome our faith. Tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin, Christ won the ultimate war with Satan by His perfect sacrifice on the cross.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, we praise You for making man in Your own image. We praise You for giving Adam Your righteousness and true holiness.

We deplore, however, the existence of Satan, who caused our first parents to fall into the sin of disobedience. We deeply regret that Satan, using a product of Your creation, caused man, the crown of Your creation, to fall from grace. We also deplore our actual sins, the sins we commit daily. They are many and great, and we do indeed repent of them. Forgive us, O Lord.

Since Satan's power is still great and we are an easy mark for His assaults, we implore You to give us the strength to resist him. Strengthen our will and graciously enable us to control our flesh to do Your will. Send us Your Holy Spirit to empower our hearts with the desire and joy to resist the our old sinful nature. As we observe the power of Satan rampant in our world, causing many to worship him as You would be worshiped, we implore You to curb his power and destroy his activity among us.

We give You humble thanks that as our substitute Your Son Jesus Christ successfully overcame the devil. Enlighten our hearts with the knowledge that Jesus succeeded where we fail. Empower us with the success of Christ that we, filled with His success, resist the temptation of sin to Your glory.

Be with us, O God, in all that we do; in our daily work, strengthen and counsel us; in our leisure, defend us; in our homes, shelter us; in our travels, guide us; in our study, counsel us; in our afflictions, shield us; in our sorrows, comfort us; in our prayers, hear us; and in our worship, lift up our souls to You.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
In the name of Him Who conquered the forces of evil for us, our Lord Jesus Christ, we earnestly pray.

© Amen.

LENT ONE

Chant Tone



<p>Introit When he calls to Me, I will answer him;* I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satis fy him* and show him My sal — vation.</p> <p>Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place — * the Most High, who is my — refuge — no evil shall be allowed to be — fall you,* no plague come near your tent. For He will command His angels con cerning you* to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up,* lest you strike your foot a gainst a stone.</p>	<p>You will tread on the lion and the — adder;* the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.</p> <p>Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.</p> <p>When he calls to Me, I will answer him;* I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satis fy him* and show him My sal — vation.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 91:15-16; Psalm 91:9-13)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2)

Verse

Put on the whole ar | mor of God*
that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the — devil.

(Ephesians 6:11)

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ENTRANCE PRAYER: Gracious Lord, Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we, Your chosen bring to You our sacrifice of prayer and praise. For not rebuking us in Your anger or chastening us in Your wrath, we give You thanks. For hearing our supplications and accepting our prayers, we adore Your Holy name. While we wait for the fulfillment of Your promises regarding Your kingdom, grant Your continual blessing to our nation and the nations of the Earth. Give peace in our time that Your Gospel may have free course and be preached to the edifying of people everywhere. In the wonderful name of Jesus we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SEASON OF LENT IS A DIFFICULT TIME OF JOY AND SADNESS. The forty days of Lent were traditionally used by the early church as days of fasting and preparation. The Sundays of Lent are not counted into the fast, since as Jesus said (Matthew 9:15) the people at a wedding don't fast while the bridegroom is with them. We teach that every Sunday, even the Sundays in Lent are spiritually Easter Sunday, when we come to worship in the wonder of the glory of our Savior who defeated sin, death and the grave, and with His blood has washed us clean to be eternal members of the kingdom of Glory in Heaven. We welcome everyone to worship on this day of the Lord. We want to thank everyone for the blending of voices in praise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Overcoming Temptation

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 91:15-16;) Psalm 91:9-13
Psalm 91 was written by David and is an encouragement to take God as our keeper, as our every present help in the time of distress. God will lift us up (by His angels) lest we strike our foot.

COLLECT

The Collect prepares us to hear the wilderness events in our lessons. We ask that Jesus would guide us through the wilderness of this world to the glory of eternal life in Heaven.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 22:1-18

Abraham's life was more convoluted and demanding than the life of most of God's people. Our lesson serves the two fold purpose of examining the call of Abraham to be the father of the chosen people and it sets up the Gospel account of the giving of a Son as the sacrifice for the sins of others. God is not arbitrary in His demands for faithful action. Abraham had a purpose and would need to prove that purpose to himself. Where others had failed (namely Adam and Eve) Abraham must not fail in listening and accomplishing what God demanded of him. It is also very interesting that Isaac is forced to carry the wood for his sacrifice, and must have cooperated in this experience as we have no account of an attempt to get away. This was as much a test of faith for Isaac as it was for Abraham.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews chapter 12 compares the greater wonder of Heaven to our place here on Earth, and encourages us to look to Jesus for patience.

EPISTLE LESSON—James 1:12-18

In the historic liturgy, this pericope was used (more or less) across the Fourth and Fifth Sundays in Easter. In our former three year cycle, it was moved to the Sixteenth Sunday in Pentecost "B". In our latest revision we promoted lessons from James (chapters 2-5) to Proper 18-21 and moved James 1 to this place in Lent One. Now, we effectively read all of James during the "B" series. It is often taught that James and Paul said opposite things. Actually, James and Paul said exactly the same thing from a different point of view. Today we are using this lesson because of its intimate connection with the temptation of Christ.

VERSE—Ephesians 6:11

We do not sing Alleluias during Lent so I have chosen to comment on the Verse as it is likely what is substituted. Today our verse co-ordinates in that it reminds us of our stand against Satan, wherein Jesus stands in our place against Satan.