

March 5, 2012
First Sunday of Lent

Call to prayer:

O Holy Spirit of God, be our helper and guide. Through our prayerful meditation on Scripture, fill us with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Pour out within us the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Focus: The gospel is Mark's version of Jesus being tempted in the desert. Jesus confronts evil but also proclaims the good news that the reign of God is now. Believe the good news and it can change your life.

Questions for reflection and faith sharing:

1. What words or phrases stand out for you in any of this reading?
2. To what are you being called this Lent? How does the gospel speak to you about change and commitment?
3. What are some personal disciplines I can undertake this Lent to rededicate myself to an honest and vital relationship with the God who loves me?

For whom and for what shall we pray?

Concluding prayer: All good and gracious God, with your loving care guide the penance we have begun this Lent. Help us to persevere with love and sincerity. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.