

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT—March 10, 2019

## First Reading — Deut. 26:4-10

<sup>4</sup> Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. <sup>5</sup> “And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <sup>6</sup> And the Egyptians treated us harshly, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. <sup>7</sup> Then we cried to the LORD the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice, and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression; <sup>8</sup> and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror, with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which thou, O LORD, hast given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God; ...

## Responsorial Psalm PS 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15.

R. (cf. 15b) **Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust."

R. **Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

No evil shall befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your tent,  
For to his angels he has given command about you,  
that they guard you in all your ways.

R. **Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

Upon their hands they shall bear you up,

lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the asp and the viper;  
you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

R. **Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;  
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in distress;

I will deliver him and glorify him.

R. **Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

## Second Reading — Romans 10:8-13

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); <sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. <sup>13</sup> For, “every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## Gospel Reading — Luke 4:1-13

<sup>1</sup> And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit <sup>2</sup> for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of

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time, <sup>6</sup> and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours.”

<sup>8</sup> And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

<sup>9</sup> And he took him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here; <sup>10</sup> for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you,’ <sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” <sup>13</sup> And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading —*Deut. 26:4-10*

1. What will be in “the basket from your hand,” or the “first of the fruit” as an expression of gratitude and worship this Lenten Season?

#### Second Reading —Romans 10:8-13

2. What do these Scriptures say about salvation?

#### Gospel Reading —Luke 4:1-13

3. Remembering the first temptation by Satan in the Garden of Eden, what is always at the root of temptation?
4. What part did sacred Scripture play both in the temptation of Jesus and in his overcoming the temptation?
5. When was the next occasion when Satan tempted Jesus?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*