



Journeying through the Gospels in Lent



**Monday
March 9th 2014**

Daily Devotional

“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise”

Collect

Grant, almighty God, through the observances of Lent, each year, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Today's Readings

Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91: 1-15

Daily Meditation:

Bring me back to you Lord. This week I pray for a renewal of my life. Teach me to be more attentive and alert. I want to try new patterns of growth. The difficulties and challenges that I encounter keep me humble. My desire is clear. I want the self-sacrificing love of Christ which brings mercy and healing, to be reproduced in my life. In my journey, I seek to savor the meaning of Jesus' self-less love, that I might reflect that love to others. At the end of my journey, I will renew my baptismal promises. Dying with Jesus in baptism, I have a new life in him. Today, Lord, I desire nothing less than your re-creating Spirit, breathing new life into my own life.

Luke 4:1-13 (MSG)

Tested by the Devil

4¹⁻² Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry. ³ The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.” ⁵⁻⁷ For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.” ⁸ Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.” ⁹⁻¹¹ For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone’?”



Psalm 91:1-16(MSG)

91¹⁻¹³ You who sit down in the High God's presence, spend the night in Shaddai's shadow, Say this: "GOD, you're my refuge. I trust in you and I'm safe!" That's right—he rescues you from hidden traps, shields you from deadly hazards. His huge outstretched arms protect you— under them you're perfectly safe; his arms fend off all harm. Fear nothing—not wild wolves in the night, not flying arrows in the day, Not disease that prowls through the darkness, not disaster that erupts at high noon. Even though others succumb all around, drop like flies right and left, no harm will even graze you. You'll stand untouched, watch it all from a distance, watch the wicked turn into corpses. Yes, because GOD's your refuge, the High God your very own home, Evil can't get close to you, harm can't get through the door. He ordered his angels to guard you wherever you go. If you stumble, they'll catch you; their job is to keep you from falling. You'll walk unharmed among lions and snakes, and kick young lions and serpents from the path. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "If you'll hold on to me for dear life," says GOD, "I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me. Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times; I'll rescue you, then throw you a party. I'll give you a long life, give you a long drink of salvation!"

Today's Reflection

Let us praise our loving Redeemer, who gained for us this season of grace, and pray to him, in these words: Lord, create a new spirit in us. Christ, our life, through baptism we were buried with you and rose to life with you, may we walk today in newness of life. Lord, you have brought blessings to all people, throughout the whole world, bring us to share your concerns for the good of humankind. May we work together to build up the earthly city, with our eyes fixed on the city that lasts for eternity. Healer of our bodies and souls, cure the sickness of our spirit, so that we may grow in holiness through your constant care and loving grace. May your humility and compassion result in our own humility and compassion for those whom we encounter today and every day. Lord, we desire to know and experience the love that will not look for reward. Show us your way so that in our living and life style we may reflect you.

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, you who breathed the spirit of life within me. Draw out of me the light and life you created. Help me to find my way back to you. Help me to use my life to reflect your glory and to serve others as your Son Jesus did. May the Lord bless me, protect me from all evil and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

