



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

First Sunday in Lent

14 February 2016

Sentence Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.

Luke 4.8

Collect

God of the wilderness,
your Spirit leads us to face the truth, unprotected and exposed:
in our times of trial,
help us to resist the worship of empty power
and the illusion of invulnerability
that we might find our true food
in Jesus Christ, the Broken Bread. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Notice how the heart of this reading is a confession of faith in the form of a story. It is the story of God bringing a people out of slavery in Egypt. Jacob is the wandering Aramean who went to fertile Egypt in a time of famine and whose descendants became slaves there until Moses led them out. Jesus will be 'the new Moses' who will lead the whole creation from its slavery to death into new life.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs

and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house. *Deuteronomy 26.1-11*

Reader For the word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16 APBA Page 224 at 10am TiS 48

This is what is known as a wisdom psalm. Those who trust God need fear no peril. Notice how this psalm becomes Jesus' prayer in his time of testing. (He would have been able to recite all the psalms – they were his prayer book.)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

While the complete keeping of the law given through Moses proves impossible, the gift of salvation in Jesus has only to be accepted – and then lived by grace through faith.

Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 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.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Romans 10.4-13

Reader May your word live in us.
ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

ALL Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to St Luke

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

'Filled with the power of the Spirit' is a Christian phrase, showing that the work of the Church begins in and through the life of Jesus, even before the Church is in existence. And notice that Jesus' life of grace begins with testing and not in ease or success!! The mention of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness (it means a long, long time) relates to the 40 years when Israel wandered in the desert, being tested and tried and forging their relationship with God.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying 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 protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding

country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. *Luke 4.1-15*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week. Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 Ps 27 Philippians 3.17-4.1 Luke 13.1-9

Prayer for the Week. O Lord, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey your godly will in righteousness and true holiness; to your honour and glory, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one god, world without end. **Amen.**

God bless the Ash Wednesday dust.

God bless the dust we are made of.
God bless the stardust, the dust that makes us wonder.
God bless the house dust that dances in the shafts of light.
God bless the red dust at the centre of this land.
God bless the bulldust that shows up what is nonsense.
God bless the chalk dust that teaches us to know.
God bless the dust I place upon my head this day.
God bless the gold dust within me,
glimpses that the ordinary is more than it seems. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed We remember before God:
Alfred Cruth, Lydia Constance (Connie) Checcucci, Ivan Mercer,
Marguherita Burrell, John Richards, Gwenthelleyean (Gwen) Richards,
James Wearing Smith, Ada Emery, Erina Villers Pringle, Kit
Watling *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemoration of the week.

February 20 William Grant Broughton (1788-1853), the first Anglican Bishop of (the whole of) Australia (1835-1852). In 1842, Tasmania was made a separate diocese and in 1847 Melbourne, Adelaide and Newcastle were declared (dio) sees.

