

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 90)

ANTIPHON: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

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

LECTOR: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: "My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!" **R.**

LECTOR: Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. **R.**

LECTOR: They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. **R.**

LECTOR: His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you." I will save him in distress and give him glory. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Or

The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust.

TODAY'S READINGS Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13.

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday Lent, Year C) Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Psalm 26; Philippians 3:17 – 4:1; Luke 9:28-36

*Majellan
newsletter*

Join the Family

There is no need to wait for the quarterly magazine, the Majellan weekly newsletter comes out each Wednesday. It is full of inspirational articles, quizzes, prayers, podcasts and humorous jokes. So, if you're not receiving the newsletter, why not join the Majellan Family and subscribe at: majellan.media/join-the-family/



majellan

Resisting temptation



9 March 2025 1st Sunday Lent, Year C

As we begin the season of Lent, we hear Luke's version of the three temptations of Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry. His responses will determine the direction of his mission.

The first temptation is about food. "Turn this stone into bread." After being without food for forty days it would have been simple for Jesus to satisfy his hunger by turning stone into bread by using his divine power. Jesus does not succumb to self-gratification but quotes the Book of Deuteronomy reminding the devil that we do not live "on bread alone."

Today, the temptation to self-indulgence is not simply about food, but it may be about a lifestyle where our personal concerns are prioritised above the needs of others.

The second temptation is about power over others when the devil invites Jesus to exercise authority over nations. This is a seductive temptation for power and control is an aphrodisiac, and Pope Francis constantly warns us against the abuse of power when we use our roles in church and society to aggrandise ourselves rather than promote the concerns of those less fortunate. Jesus calls us to promote not ourselves but commitment to the needy as evidenced in the ministry of Jesus.

The third temptation is for Jesus to do something amazing by throwing himself off the top of the temple and asking the angels to catch him. Jesus resists the temptation to do something spectacular and reproves the

devil by quoting scripture to confirm God's love for those who are faithful. Success is not everything as Mother Theresa famously put it: "God has not called us to be successful but to be faithful."

This does not mean that our lives will be free from temptation, but scripture teaches us that Jesus overcame the devil and won the battle for us and for our world. In the wilderness and on the cross Jesus resisted the devil's temptations. He did not listen to Peter, who tried to convince him to stay away from Jerusalem and certain death. He did not call on an army of angels when arrested in the garden of Gethsemane. Even crucified on the cross, Jesus refused to save himself.

We do not have to fear the devil because Jesus has defeated him. Which means that no matter what is happening in our lives, no matter the temptations, trials and tests we might be going through, we can turn to Jesus, and he will be there for us, to lead and guide us along the way.

We will not be challenged as Jesus was, but we will be tempted to live for ourselves, to exercise power and control, and to focus on success rather than faithfulness. Jesus teaches us that through prayer, scripture, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and service of others we will be able to resist temptation and be missionary disciples proclaiming the good news by word and deed.

Michael A Kelly CSSR

© Majellan Media 2025