

Sunday, February 21, 2010
First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1–11

A reading from _____.

The annual harvest festival, called the feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

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, ²you 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. ³You 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." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you 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. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The 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; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So 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. ¹¹Then 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

Refrain: God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

¹You who dwell in the shelter of ¹the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of ¹the Almighty--

**²you will say to the LORD, "My refuge¹ and my stronghold,
my God in whom I¹ put my trust." R**

⁹Because you have made the¹ LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your¹ habitation,

**¹⁰no evil¹ will befall you,
nor shall affliction come¹ near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge¹ over you,
to guard you in¹ all your ways.

**¹²Upon their hands they will¹ bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a-¹gainst a stone. R**

¹³You will tread upon the lion¹ cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion¹ and the serpent.

**¹⁴I will deliver those who¹ cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they¹ know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will¹ answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and¹ honor them.

**¹⁶With long life will I¹ satisfy them,
and show them¹ my salvation. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b–13

A reading from _____.

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because 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. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1–13

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where 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. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And 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. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹Then 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, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered by the Spirit, let us return to the Lord our God and pray for the church, the world, and all who yearn for new life.

Faithful God, teach us to live in the covenant of baptism, defend us from all temptation, and deliver us from all that draws us away from you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide us in our care of your creation, that all people might enjoy the bounty of the earth for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Send your gift of peace upon the world, grant wisdom to all who govern, and uphold all who suffer from violence and cruelty (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Be with those who are sick or grieving and with all who need your healing presence (*especially*), that they may find comfort and refuge in you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our spiritual disciplines, grant us a holy Lent, and be with those who are preparing for baptism into your death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We commend to your loving care all who have died. Help us trust in your eternal love and the promise of resurrection that is ours in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the one in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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