



The Shepherd's Voice

February 12, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'Trust His Word'

"It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone'... 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve'... 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Jesus. --His Temptations in the wilderness--Luke 4: 1-13.

We begin Lent tomorrow on Ash Wednesday. It is an ancient tradition to remember the 40 days of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness and our preparations for the coming of Holy Week and Easter. Over the next 40 plus days we will examine ourselves and our sinful ways, repent, return to the Lord, being guided by the Spirit of God to defend ourselves from all assaults of His arch-enemy Satan. We will consecrate ourselves anew to offer our lives in grateful submission to our Lord Jesus Christ. We will thank Him for the extraordinary work He did on the cross for us to liberate us from the penalty of sin and death (without God). We will appreciate and magnify how gracious God is in giving us eternal life for simply believing in Jesus and following Him. We will remember the sacrifice the Father endured in order to give us eternal love and peace with Him in heaven. Yes, we will go on our personal spiritual pilgrimages to see our Lord Jesus face to face and become like Him in His faithfulness unto our Father. We will imitate Christ.

As we consider Lent which is an old English word for Spring or even March (Lent always transitions through March), we might ask the question 'Why'... 'Is it even Biblical?' Yes, indeed, I suppose the greatest admiration and worship of our Lord Jesus comes when we apply ourselves in a disciplined way to imitating His Life. We often hear or say, 'I want to be just like Jesus'. Jesus had his magnificent moments with the Holy Spirit descending on Him and the voice of the Father proclaiming, "This is My Beloved Son, listen to Him". But Jesus also had the moribund moments of

encounters with Satan in the desert, seeing the devastation of his cruel and evil empire on earth. Jesus, marvelously, shows us His humanity and kinship with us, in the midst of vexing temptations that could have taken any man or woman down. He raises us from mortal weakness and physical starvation and gives us the antidote to Satan's rigorous ploys. Jesus uses the Word of God, the Voice of the Lord, the Father's projection of His Will for humanity. And so should we!

Listen again. When Jesus was without food for 40 days, He answers Satan who tries to command Him to turn a stone into bread, "Man shall not live on bread alone..."! But, that Scripture from Deuteronomy 8:3 continues with "...", but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord!" This is the key to defending against temptations. We live on the Word of God, the Spirit actively helping us in challenging times. Jesus again is tempted by Satan trying to give Him all the kingdoms of this world in exchange for Jesus worshipping Satan. But, again, Jesus uses Scripture and says from Deut. 6: 13 or 10:20 which says, "It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by His Name you shall swear." It goes on in v.14 to say, "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you..." You shall worship 'only' the Lord your God! The penalty for not doing so; for caving into Satan's wiles, "lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth!" Shall we then worship or serve other lesser gods: materialism, sensuality, power or the like? Be like Jesus...defend yourselves with the Word.

Finally, Jesus is tempted by Satan to challenge the Father's Word from Psalm 91, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from (the pinnacle of the Temple)"! Satan was challenging the authority of God's Word, (he knew the Word too)... "for He

will command His angels concerning you, to guard you”, and, “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”(vv. 11-12). Dastardly! The Evil One tries to turn the Word against Jesus. But, Jesus deftly answers with Deut. 6:16, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test!” Don’t challenge God—just obey! Deut. 6:17-18 says, “you shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God...and you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord!!” This is convincing. Satan departs. We must apply ourselves therefore to a right and honorable discipline of following after the Lord God’s Word and Ways. Jesus shows us how to do it. He clearly gives us three absolutes in countermeasures against temptations. Try them this

Lent. Use the Word to defend against those pesky temptations and those in-your-face assaults by the Evil One. Have ‘Jesus’ mind in yours! Trust in the Word of the Lord to liberate you!

Now, enter into this holy season remembering what Jesus did for you and for me. He is the Lord God we worship and Him only will we serve. I call us to a holy Lent.

May God bless you and give you more of His Spirit to guide you through His Word.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

February 17, 2013		8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader		Doug Hall	Stephen Painter
Psalm Reader		Choir	Francis Slaughter
Second Reader		Robbin Gates	Pat Richardson
Intercessor		Rob Ackerman	Mitch Dubski
Lay Euch. Ministers		Jane Rost, Joy Rosendale	KC Winward, JR Fox
Acolytes		Rob Ackerman	Mitch D (C); Kalani C (T1); Dasiahmarie V (T2)
Welcomers		Chris Corey, Paula Sholly	Margaret Olsen, Paula Sholly
Ushers		Chris Corey, David Green	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ray Seibold, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day	All Vestry		
Healing Ministers		Rudy Theobald, Robbin Gates	Petey Seibold, Ann Fox
Announcer		Randy Stewart	Anna Teixeira

The Bishop is coming!

Bishop Bill Thompson will be at Grace on February 17th. Bishop Bill will preach at both services. We will have a joyful celebration of confirmation for 6 of our children and 2 adults at the 10:15 service.

Tuesdays in January and Beyond

Feb. 26-Mar. 19th

Donna Brayton's life-changing course on the Sermon on the Mount will resume on February 26 with a potluck @ 6:30PM. This is Jesus' powerful teaching on how to live as a truly committed follower of Christ in community with others. Be sure to sign up at the book table in the Narthex. Come at 6:30 p.m. with food to share and stay for this wonderful series.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 12th

We start serving at 6:00 p.m.

Fun & Frivolity begins at 7:00

Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & questions for the Bishop
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Confirmations with Worship Team.

We welcome
Bishop Bill
Thompson on
Sunday!

Readings for Sunday

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91
Romans 10:5-13
Luke 4:1-13

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

This Week at Grace –Feb. 12, 2013-Feb. 19, 2013

Tues. February 12

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
7:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Fun & Frivolity

Wed February 13 – Ash Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting
Noon Ash Wednesday Service
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service with Choir

Thurs. February 14

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship at Ruth Yahn's
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. February 15

Fr. Joe's day off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace
7:00 p.m. A Time of Liturgical Contemplation

Sat. February 16

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship – Suite T
10:00 a.m. Ministry Leaders meet with Bishop

Sun. February 17- The Bishop is here

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee and questions for the Bishop
10:15 a.m. Confirmation service and Holy Eucharist With the Worship Team

Mon. February 18

Church Office Closed – President's Day
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. February 19

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner
7:00 p.m. Lenten Teaching in Fellowship Room

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.**

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

Feb. 12 Shrove Tuesday fun and frivolity
Feb. 13 Ash Wed. Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 15 Evening Prayer & Healing Service 6:30p.m.
Feb. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation 7 p.m.
Feb. 16&17 Bishop Bill at Grace
Feb. 19 Soup Supper
& Lenten Teaching w. Fr. Richard
Feb. 20 Vestry Meeting
Feb. 26 Donna Brayton's Class
Feb. 22 Evening Prayer Service & Healing-6:30pm
Feb. 23 Combined Vestry Retreat at Grace
Mar. 9 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.
Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Time –set clocks forward.
Mar. 13 Soaking Prayer
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday – Great Vigil of Easter
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home