

09 March 2014

First Sunday of Lent

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in
the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in
obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING: *Romans 5.12-19*

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned –

¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.

¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (NRSV)

GOSPEL: *Matthew 4.1-11*

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' "

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' "

⁷Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' "

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. (NRSV)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread
from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the
true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.