

## **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>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; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

## **Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13**

<sup>8b</sup>“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

## **Gospel: Luke 4:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

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

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Led by the Holy Spirit, we turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

### ***A brief silence.***

Loving God, by your Holy Spirit guide the church and our life together. Inspire us to reject temptations. Guide us to teach your word in holiness and in truth. Hear us, O God,  
**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Give leaders the willingness to resist temptations of injustice and greed. Give them your wisdom and a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

We pray for the oppressed and the afflicted. Bring them out of suffering with your mighty hand and your outstretched arm. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Help us to make this season of Lent a time of spiritual growth. Give us a spirit of compassion and generosity. Hear us, O God.  
**your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are living in a wilderness of separation and loneliness. Send them your love through ministers, caregivers, and caring disciples. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are in a wilderness of sickness, pain, and suffering. Send them your healing, and provide for their needs. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who grieve. As they remember loved ones, fill them with the peace of the resurrection. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Holy God, as we journey to the cross, strengthen us and guide us by your love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.