

MARCH 06, 2022 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass will stream live on Sunday at 10:30 am through www.caedm.ca



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World Day of Prayer - March 4, 2022

Once again we will celebrate World Day of Prayer virtually in small groups or at home alone.

This year's service is prepared by England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme "I know the plans I have for you" (Jeremiah 29: 1-14),

The video is now available on the website wicc.org and it is put together by our Canadian group as it was last year

Cemetery Contacts:

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First Sunday of Lent, March 06, 2022
Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

We are now into the great season of Lent. It is important for us to realize that our life is a journey, a movement towards God, and to prepare ourselves to receive him fully. During the season of Lent, the church invites us to examine our lives, repent of our sins, and do penance. By means of fasting, penance, and prayers, the faithful obtain the strength they need to overcome sinful tendencies. The purpose of Lent is to provide that purification by weaning human persons from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in them the desire to do God's will and to make his kingdom alive by making it first come into their hearts. The Church invites all to repent from evil ways and return to the Lord who is eagerly waiting for each one to come to him.

In the First Reading Moses speaks to the Israelites at the end of their forty years wandering in the desert and he prepares them for their new life in the Promised Land. He gives them an extended lesson on survival in the Promised Land. He was aware that he himself would not cross the river Jordan and without him, they may even succumb to temptations that may be harmful to their spiritual welfare. He reminds them that in the Promised Land they have to rely on God as much as they did when they were in the desert. As a leader Moses gives them a preview of the wonderful experiences they would have in the Promised Land. The forty years of wandering would now come to an end. They would not eat Manna; rather they will have an abundance of food, the produce of the land flowing with milk and honey. At the harvest time, he called on them to bring the first fruits and offer them to God. Secondly, it would be an opportunity for them to express their gratitude to God.

The Second Reading is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Romans tells us that those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, for the person in faith it makes no difference whether he is a Jew or a Greek. All belong to the same Lord who is rich enough and is concerned about each one of us. He will support us and when we ask for his help he will not refuse. Paul tells us that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. It is a scandal and a crime when people bring in the differences in caste and origin into the religion. Paul tells them that salvation is offered to all Jews and the Greeks included. He calls on them to live a life of faith. Faith in Jesus and calling on his name in prayer leads all to salvation.

In today's Gospel Reading, we heard how Satan tempted Jesus in the desert just before he began his public ministry. The Temptations of Jesus in the desert reveal to us the way in which the Son of God as the Messiah responded to the devious methods of the evil one. What Satan proposes to Jesus is contrary to the will of the father and indicates the way in which human beings are generally tempted with. Jesus has just completed his forty days of preparation in the desert and he now faces one more test before he begins his mission. During his stay in the desert, he had fasted and prayed, and now he was hungry and certainly he needed strength before he started his ministry. Here Jesus shows how a person can conquer the evil one and remain triumphant and be at the service of God. In the early centuries, this was a lesson to the catechumens to prepare themselves after the person of Jesus who himself was tempted.

All the temptations Jesus underwent in the desert call for the misuse of his power as Messiah and Son of God. The mission given by the Father was to suffer and die and thus save the world. The evil one shows devious ways and wants Jesus to use his power to self-fulfillment and external show. Led by the Spirit in the wilderness, Jesus resisted the three temptations that were placed before Him. His temptations make it clear that Jesus was fully human as well as divine. The episode also tells us that what happened to Jesus will happen to us and we too can be tempted at any time. Through Jesus and with Him, we are reminded that we too can be triumphant in our battle against evil.

In fact, all the three temptations of Jesus are all rolled into one: to be unfaithful to the mission of the Father. The Father had given him the mission to redeem the world through his life, suffering, and death on the cross. Satan now shows him the easy way to fulfill his mission. He need not go the hard way but take the easy path. Jesus refuses to succumb to the temptations and takes the path of God. The last sentence of today's Gospel tells us: "The devil left him to return at the appointed time." The battle with evil was not over for Jesus. It will occur again and again at various stages in his life, right up to and especially at those last hours in the garden and on the Cross. For us, too, the battle against evil never stops. The selfishness, the greed, the anger and hostility, the jealousy and resentment, above all the desire are our temptations. Our only success in life can be what we achieve in building a society that is more loving and just, based on the message of Jesus, a message of truth and integrity, of love and compassion, of freedom and peace.