

Temptation

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2

Temptations find us every day,
Around each corner waiting.
They make us stumble on our way,
Confounding and frustrating.

Oh, not that piece of chocolate cake,
And not that cherry pie;
For those are rules that humans make
And rarely make God sigh.

The dangers that await for us
Are subtle and deceiving:
A failure in our Lord to trust
And in ourselves believing.

The prestige, privilege, and power
That we as humans crave
Our Savior did refuse, that hour
And bravely faced the grave.

Dare we as well to forsake all
The vain temptations given?
Can we answer the Savior's call
And focus goals on Heaven?

The gossip, judgment, vain display,
The lack of charity -
Must be forever cast away
So that we can be free.

Our souls need cleansed, our hearts released
From this world's empty claims.
Then hope and love can be increased:
We'll feel the Spirit's flames.

Through Lent we can repent and pray
For God's grace and redemption,
And grow in faith throughout each day,
Prepared to face temptation.



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