

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 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.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 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. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

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, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Together, let us praise God's greatness  
**LET THE HUMBLE LISTEN AND REJOICE**

God is not remote from us. He is at the point of my pen, my (pick) shovel, my paint brush, my (sewing) needle - and my heart and thoughts.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin 20<sup>th</sup> century mystic

We are back in the Common Lectionary as we launch out into the season of Lent and we could not have asked for a more appropriate reading to begin the season than this one.

This is the story that most broadly informs our thinking about Lent with respect to Lent being a season of sacrifice or “giving something up.” Jesus is fasting and being tempted. So we, and by “we” I mean “The Church” have tended to approach Lent from that perspective. I have done some fasting through the years in Lent and may do some of that this year. Maybe you too. OR we resist temptation, which is not quite the same thing as fasting. This has to do with giving something up for Lent... something tempting or seductive... ..chocolate, social media, our favorite TV indulgence-----the Property Brothers----whatever.

We see Jesus here fasting and resisting temptations and so we, have settled into this way of approaching Lent. We’ve also tended to see Jesus here as in a condition of extreme physical and spiritual stress----we have tended to see him as pushed to the limits of endurance----a forty day fast IS extreme. And he is being tempted in ways that we could call extreme or extraordinary. So we have tended to enter into Lent with the mindset of testing ourselves in some way, pushing ourselves with a mindset of self-discipline, and rigorous self-denial.

But what if Jesus here is not experiencing the wilderness as a testing ground? What if he is not having a particularly difficult time of it? What if we have been mis-reading his experience?

Look at the first 6 words of the text. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit.

Our text today is immediately preceded by the story of Jesus’ baptism, his experience of the Spirit’s Presence and of God’s voice naming him as favored and beloved.

Can we imagine the joy of that moment? Can we imagine how empowering was that moment? Recall the happiest, most fulfilled, the most purpose-full moment or moments of your life----now we are getting a taste of where Jesus is interiorly here.

This is the Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, we see walking, maybe even running out into the wilderness, utterly soaked with love for God and I’m willing to surmise that he did not so much set out to fast for forty days as that he was so enthralled with the experience of being Spirit filled that 40 days had passed and he finally realized he hadn’t eaten anything.

We’ve done that right? Forgotten to eat because we were enthralled by someone we loved or something we loved doing?

“I don’t want to sleep----I just want to keep on loving you” Remember that REO Speedwagon classic?

Obsession. Compulsion. Connection. Longing. Desire. Devotion. Carelessness.

You can see this in the child who gets lost in an activity. You can see it in the adult committed to his or her cause, his or her art, his or her project, his or her vision.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit. This wasn't hard for him! When you are soaked with God's presence in your being, all you desire is to look at God and God only. Earthbound glory or authority simply are no comparison, of no interest. Satan's got nothing to offer here. And how uninteresting the idea of floating off the pinnacle of the temple---to the cheers of an amazed crowd, and a newspaper headline with a big photo. This is Satan's best stuff, and it's pretty lame really when you compare it to the joy and the peace and the pure delight of being full of the Holy Spirit, soaked with God's presence.

I covet for us all, an exhilarating Lent. I covet for us all hearts drenched with love for God. It can't be achieved, only received. I covet for us a season devoted simply to losing ourselves in God's love, thanking God for it, adoring God for it, savoring it as far preferable to Leo's Pizza or your favorite Ice Cream.

I covet for us all such delight in God's love that every impulse we may experience to look away from God, simply, as our text says, "departs..."

# ...LED BY THE SPIRIT

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

March 10, 2019 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Oh God, you are our God, we seek you, our souls thirst for you, our flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water

**SO WE HAVE LOOKED UPON YOU IN THE SANCTUARY,  
BEHOLDING YOUR POWER AND GLORY**

Lighting of the Candles

"Christ Jesus we welcome your inner light..." Brother Roger of Taize

**452 Here I Am Lord**

Sharing Christ's Peace

"Jesus Paid it All" Matt Fillingham on Trombone

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"Descend into silence and worship the Father in secret." Thomas Merton

Children's Circle

All children thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Breath of God, breath of life, breath of deepest yearning,

**COME HOLY SPIRIT, AMEN.**

THE GOSPEL LUKE 4: 1-13

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.**

The Meditation "An Exhilarating Lent" Rev. Rob Carr

In the beauty of the earth, in the community of your church, and in worship from the soul

**HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME O GOD**

In our failure to love you, our Maker, to follow your Son, to attend to your Spirit

**LORD HAVE MERCY**

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

The Offering

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.  
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

**“Quietly, Peacefully” vss 1, 2, 3**

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against You, opposing Your will in our lives.

**WE HAVE DENIED YOUR GOODNESS IN EACH OTHER, IN OURSELVES,  
AND IN THE WORLD YOU HAVE CREATED.**

We repent of the evil that enslaves us

**THE EVIL WE HAVE DONE, AND THE EVIL DONE ON OUR BEHALF**

Bring order to our unruly wills and affections.

May we love what You command and desire what You promise,

**SO THAT, AMONG THE SWIFT AND VARIED CHANGES OF THIS WORLD  
OUR HEARTS MAY BE FIXED WHERE TRUE JOY IS TO BE FOUND**

Welcome to the Table

Words of Institution

The Communion Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin  
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.**

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of “Worship and Wonder”

112 Holy Ground 2X

Gracious Beloved, help us to welcome the light and walk in it always

**SHOW US THE WAY WE MUST GO TO ETERNAL DAY, AMEN**

**TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!**

**SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE**

**WE WALK HUMBLLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY**

**We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope  
you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon  
your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community  
Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via  
Facebook and these websites**

**[www.nocckc.org](http://www.nocckc.org) [www.kcdisciples.org](http://www.kcdisciples.org) [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)**

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### THIS WEEK

Today 5PM NOCC Youth with Northland Big Group  
Monday 6PM Troop 900  
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group  
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group  
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900  
Wednesday 1PM Vital Conversations  
Wednesday 6PM SOUP SUPPER  
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry  
Thursday 6PM NOCC Board  
Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer

### UPCOMING

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS APRIL 7 5PM

REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT APRIL 14 3PM

EASTERTIDE RETREAT APRIL 26-28 MARILLAC CENTER

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM MAY 11, 16, 23

JULY 22-23 DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry of our friends at CHERITH BROOK with those experiencing homelessness. Blankets Blankets Blankets! Tennis Shoes, Cold Meds, Band-aids, Bike Locks, Gloves, Hats, Chapstick, Belts of any size, men's and women's undergarments. Cherith Brook Local Honey for Sale! Contact Eric 816-241-8047