

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2019



THE LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Once you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and are settled there, ²take some of the early produce of the fertile ground that you have harvested from the land the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket. Then go to the location the LORD your God selects for his name to reside. ³Go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him: "I am declaring right now before the LORD my God that I have indeed arrived in the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us."

"The priest will then take the basket from you and place it before the LORD your God's altar. ⁷Then you should solemnly state before the LORD your God:

"My father was a starving Aramean. He went down to Egypt, living as an immigrant there with few

family members, but that is where he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. ⁹The Egyptians treated us terribly, oppressing us and forcing hard labor on us. ⁷So we cried out for help to the LORD, our ancestors' God. The LORD heard our call. God saw our misery, our trouble, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with awesome power, and with signs and wonders. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land—a land full of milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I am bringing the early produce of the fertile ground that you, LORD, have given me."

Set the produce before the LORD your God, bowing down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then celebrate all the good things the LORD your God has done for you and your family—each one of you along with the Levites and the immigrants who are among you.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade,

¹I say to the LORD, "You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I trust!"

⁹Because you've made the LORD my refuge, the Most High, your place of residence—

¹⁰no evil will happen to you; no disease will come close to your tent.

¹¹Because he will order his messengers to help you, to protect you wherever you go.

¹²They will carry you with their own hands so you don't bruise your foot on a stone.

¹³You'll march on top of lions and vipers; you'll trample young lions and serpents underfoot.

¹⁴God says, "Because you are devoted to me, I'll rescue you. I'll protect you because you know my name.

¹⁵Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer. I'll be with you in troubling times. I'll save you and glorify you.

¹⁶I'll fill you full with old age. I'll show you my salvation."

THE EPISTLE Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b}The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the message of faith that we preach). ⁹Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰Trusting

with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. ¹¹The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't be put to shame.* ¹²There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. ¹³*All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.*

THE GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. ²There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. ³The devil said to him, "Since you are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread.*"

⁵Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to

anyone I want. ⁷Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*"

⁸The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here; ¹⁰for it's written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you* ¹¹and *they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"

¹²Jesus answered, "It's been said, *Don't test the Lord your God.*" ¹³After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.

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CREATED... *for Him*

THORNS

A LITANY FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head. **Matthew 27:29**

- Ⓐ After the fall into sin, God said to Adam: "Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you." (Genesis 3:17)

Christ is the Holy One
Through whom the world was made,
And all things serve him, Christ the Son,
On whom our sins were laid.

- Ⓐ Jesus was mocked as a king and crowned with thorns that grow so readily in the sin-cursed ground.
- Ⓑ **Lord Jesus, forgive us when we want to rule over our own lives and do not follow you. Reign over us as our eternal King.**

LENTEN LITANIES

"All things were created through him and for him,"
Colossians 1:16

- Ⓐ "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
- Ⓑ **What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**
- Ⓐ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
- Ⓑ **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.** (Psalm 8:1, 4-6)
- Ⓐ Our sins have ruined our relationships with God, with one another and with the world God created.
- Ⓑ **Jesus our King took our sins into his own body and carried them to the cross, suffering the penalty of death in our place.**
- Ⓐ On the Last Day, we will see Jesus crowned in glory.
- Ⓑ **"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"** (Revelation 5:13)

Thorns from the sin-cursed ground
Once crowned our bleeding King,
Yet now he reigns, with glory crowned,
As we his praises sing.

Bible Readings for the First Week of Lent

Sunday	Genesis 3:14-19
Monday	Matthew 27:27-31
Tuesday	Mark 15:16-20
Wednesday	John 19:19-22
Thursday	Hebrews 2:5-9
Friday	2 Timothy 4:6-8
Saturday	Revelation 4:6-11

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