

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, Year A

Season of Lent

First Reading † Genesis 2:7-9.3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God shaped man from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there put the man he had shaped. From the soil, the Lord God caused to grow every kind of tree, pleasant to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now, the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman,

‘Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?’

The woman answered the snake,

‘We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden.

It was of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said,

“You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death.”

Then the snake said to the woman,

‘No! You will not die! God knows that the day you eat it
your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good from evil.’

The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the wisdom that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to make themselves loincloths.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 50:3-6.12-14.17

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my offences.
O wash me completely from my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

My offences, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading [longer form] † Romans 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Therefore, just as through one man sin *came into the world*, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race in so far as everyone has sinned – sin already existed in the world before there was any law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Nonetheless death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sin was not after the model of Adam’s transgression, who prefigured the one who was to come.

Yet the free gift is not like the offence. If death came to many through the offence of one man, how much more plentiful has been the grace of God and the free gift in the love of the one man Jesus Christ coming to so many! Again, the gift is not like the effect of the one man who sinned. For the judgement after the one offence issued in condemnation, while the gift after many offences issued in justification. If it was by one man’s offence that death came to reign through one man, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign through the one man Jesus Christ! Well then, as one man’s offence brought condemnation to all, so one man’s good act has brought justification and life to all. Just as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience are many to be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading [shorter form] † Romans 5:12.17-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Therefore, just as through one man sin *came into the world*, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race in so far as everyone has sinned.

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The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel † Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was hungry, and the tempter came and said to him,

‘If you are Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.’

But he replied,

‘It is written:

*A human lives not on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’*

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the parapet of the Temple, and said to him,

‘If you are Son of God throw yourself down, for it is written:

*He will give his angels orders about you,
and they will carry you in their hands
in case you trip on a stone.’*

Jesus said to him, ‘It is also written:

Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him,

‘These shall all be yours if you fall at my feet and worship me.’

Then Jesus replied,

‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written:

*The Lord your God shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve.’*

Then the devil left him, and see, angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.