

# Sunday Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent

Year A

(continued)

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

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Communion Antiphon † Matthew 4:4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

## Commentary on the First Reading by Dr John Bergsma

<http://www.thesacredpage.com/2017/03/jesus-new-adam-readings-for-1st-sunday.html#more>

In the Christian tradition, this threefold love of the world – Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, and Pride of Life – is known as the threefold concupiscence, and lines up roughly with the sins of (physical) lust, avarice (greed), and pride.

We see this threefold pattern at work when Eve gives in to temptation:

The woman saw that the tree was

- (1) good for food,
- (2) pleasing to the eyes, and
- (3) desirable for gaining wisdom.

“Good for food” – this is physical lust. “Pleasing to the eye” – this is avarice, the desire to have more, to possess things for their beauty or value. “Desirable for gaining wisdom” – this is pride, because the purpose for gaining wisdom is to make herself equal to God. As the serpent says, “You will be like God” (RSV).

Although Eve is the one tempted into sin according to the narrative, the biblical and post-biblical tradition often attributes the Fall just as much, or even primarily, to Adam, probably because he was considered “head of the family,” and should have known better. Our liturgical translation rightly renders: “her husband *who was with her*,” implying that Adam was passive and complicit in the whole event.



## The Fall of Man

### Entrance Antiphon † Psalm 91 (90): 15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

The Fall of Man, Hugo van der Goes, 15<sup>th</sup> century, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

### First Reading † Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts 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 serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden.’

But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".'

Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.'

The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also 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 loin-cloths.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm † Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17.**

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

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. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;

with a spirit of fervour sustain me.

O Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

**Second Reading † Romans 5:12-19**

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from

Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**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.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.'

But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,

and they will support you on their hands

in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must 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 splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.'

Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,

and serve him alone.'