

1st Sunday of Lent
(Yr C)

Reading 1

Citation: Deuteronomy, Chap. 26, Verses 4-10
Deuteronomy 26: 4-10

Moses is attempting to teach the Israelites how to be thankful for the intervention of God in their lives. There is also humility arising from the realization that the people must do something to show their God their gratefulness. Be a teacher to your listeners.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people, saying:

"The priest shall receive the basket from you
and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God.

(Narrator)
(what does Moses sound like?)
(very short pause)

Then

you shall declare before the LORD, your God,

‘My father was a wandering Aramean
who went down to Egypt with a small household
and lived there as an alien.

(humble)
(short pause)

But there he became a nation
great,
strong,
and numerous.

(proud)
(short pause)

When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us,
imposing hard labor upon us,
we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers,
and he heard our cry
and saw our affliction,
our toil,
and our oppression.

(some anger?)
(very short pause)
(thankful)
(concern)
(very short pause)

He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm,
with terrifying power,
with signs and wonders;
and bringing us into this country,
he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey.

(triumph)
(very short pause)
(grateful) (short pause)

Therefore,

I have now brought you the firstfruits of the products of the soil
which you, O LORD, have given me.’

(humble)
(very short pause)
(commanding)

And having set them before the Lord,
your God,
you shall bow down in his presence."

(commanding)

Proclamation Format

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Romans, Chap. 10, Verses 8-13
Romans 10: 8-13

Paul presents his case for the universality of the appeal of Jesus. He is attempting to help the Jews of Rome understand that a new covenant between God and mankind has been forged by Jesus, through His death and resurrection. Take your time; let the concepts sink in. Be the patient teacher that Paul is attempting to be.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: (Attention!)

What does Scripture say? (a quiet questioning tone) (short pause)

*The word is near you,
in your mouth
and in your heart*

(very short pause)

-- that is, the word of faith that we preach --,

(very short pause)

for,

(build urgency throughout the sentence)

if you confess with your mouth

that Jesus is Lord

(very short pause)

and believe in your heart

that God raised him from the dead,

(very short pause)

you will be saved.

(separate "you" from "will...") (short pause)

For one believes with the heart

(you're teaching in this sentence)

and so is justified,

(almost parenthetical)

and one confesses with the mouth

and so is saved.

(very short pause)

For the Scripture says,

(very short pause)

No one who believes in him will be put to shame.

(change tone) (short pause)

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

(voice goes down)

the same Lord is Lord of all,

(almost parenthetical)

enriching all who call upon him.

(Pause)

For

(very short pause)

"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord

(begin final emphasis)

will be saved."

(convinced)

The word of the Lord.

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Gospel

Luke's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert attempts to show Jesus as determined to do His Father's Will. Satan, on the other hand, is not convinced, yet. Jesus is strong, determined to stay His course, above and stronger than the attractions of this world.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, (Storyteller)
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, (almost parenthetical)
to be tempted by the devil. (ominously parenthetical) (short pause)

He ate nothing during those days,
and when they were over he was hungry. (short pause)

The devil said to him,
"If you are the Son of God,
command this stone to become bread." (taunting) (short pause)

Jesus answered him,
"It is written,
One does not live on bread alone." (very firm!)
"

Then he took him up
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. (very short pause)
The devil said to him,
"I shall give to you all this power and glory;
for it has been handed over to me, (a bit parenthetical)
and I may give it to whomever I wish. (prideful)
All this will be yours,
if you worship me." (2 stresses) (very short pause)

Jesus said to him in reply,
"It is written: (very firm)
*You shall worship the Lord, your God, (2 stresses) (insistent)
and him alone shall you serve.*" (very insistent)

Then he led him to Jerusalem,
made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said 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 guard you, (almost disdainful)

Proclamation Format

and:

*With their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone."*

(very short pause)

Jesus said to him in reply,

"It also says,

You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

(raise volume; some anger)

When the devil had finished every temptation,
he departed from him
for a time.

(almost as an afterthought?)

The Gospel of the Lord.