

1st Sunday of Lent Year A

1. Happy Lent! Rejoice – we get to repent and be forgiven!

2. Today the HS leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted

WHY? So we will know J is like us in ALL things – except sin

- Jesus was tempted just like we are
 - Just like Adam and Eve were – BUT
 - Jesus did not sin
 - devil begins with a loaf of bread (for He was hungry)
 - devil is lazy – he doesn't want to fight
 - he wants surrender
 - here's a loaf of bread – give up, come on, eat something
 - here's a lovely apple Eve – give up, come on Adam, eat
 - Adam and Eve give in – Jesus does not!
 - Devil has to work harder
 - He uses scripture with the next temptation 'for it is written'
 - Jesus fights back using scripture too
 - Finally the devil comes clean with his intent
 - "Worship me"
 - THAT was his goal from the beginning
 - THAT is what he wanted with Adam & Eve
 - Doubt God – believe ME
 - And they did
 - But Jesus fights off this temptation too
- This is our example – the battle plan for Lent
 - Resist temptation – fight back like Jesus did
 - Like Jesus – the NEW ADAM – like Mary the NEW EVE

ACCEPTANCE

- In a moment we will begin the Rite of Election
- Mary Crowe and Gene Honeycutt – unbaptized – come closer as the Elect of God
- In Baptism on Easter all sin will be washed away
 - In life that follows, temptation will happen
 - They will fight & defeat temptation (at times)
 - They will fall (at times)
 - And when they fall – like us – they will be called to repent
 - And in repentance, they can confess their sin and be forgiven
 - For they are God's beloved
 - Together, today, we welcome them a step closer to full communion
 - Together we'll walk with them thru temptation & forgiveness & glory

BAPTISM

- In a moment we are going to baptize KJ & welcome him into our Church
- In Baptism, all sin will be washed away
 - In life that follows, temptation will happen
 - He will fight & defeat temptation (at times)
 - He will fall (at times)
 - And when he falls – like us – he will be called to repent
 - And in repentance, he can confess his sin and be forgiven
 - For he is God's beloved – As we all are!

3. So what does this mean for us?

We are God's People – and as such we encounter temptation, like Jesus.

Like Jesus – we have to struggle with satan –

Hand to hand, temptation by temptation, over and over again

- Jesus leaves the desert proclaiming:

“This is the time of fulfillment, repent, and believe in the Gospel”

As we start Lent He's talking to us

Lent is **our** time of fulfillment – **our** time to repent, to change how we live.

Lent is **our** time to be faithful to the New Covenant

In the New Covenant we have a new resource, Sacrament of Reconciliation – **Joy of Penance**

Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves to encounter the Risen Christ

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is a way to do this

When we have a visiting priest – seek him out! *Receive Forgiveness!*