

# Memorize & Ponder for the Week of Feb 23 – Mar 1, 2020

## Scripture Lesson for Mar 1 – Luke 4:1-13 Sermon Theme – The Real Temptations of Modern Life

Sermon text for next Sun, Mar 1 – Luke 4:1-2a (NRSV)

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,  
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.**

*As we live into Lent and Easter of 2020, we will be reading the accounts that Luke provides that are related to this season of self-examination and self-composure. This is the same author that continued the story of the Spirit's work in the Acts the Apostles that we have been reading through. We will pick up the story in the final chapters of Acts after Easter. We are seeking to understand more deeply and faithfully what the coming of Jesus as Emmanuel (God is with us), in forgiving and reconciling love, really means for their lives and for ours today.*

*As a devotional practice each week, we invite you to engage in an ancient tradition in the church, dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century, that involves praying the Scriptures daily. It's called Lectio Divina or holy reading. We will practice it, play with it, improvise on it, and be steeped by God's grace in it. We think it will change our lives!*

*We welcome your suggestions and comments on how best to consider more deeply the benefits of following Jesus Christ into the Kingdom/Commonwealth of God.*



## Daily ponderings on the early churches

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us provoke one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together ... (Hebrews 10:23-25a)*

**Our word to ponder this week is *temptation*.**

*Lectio divina* (holy reading)\* invites us to do 5 things as we consider the biblical passage: listen, reflect, see, respond, and rest in what the Spirit is teaching. What are you hearing? What meaning is being formed or reformed for you? What images or metaphors come to mind? What kind of response is the Spirit suggesting? What difference does the final moment of rest in God's reconciling love make for you?

We suggest that you read the whole passage at the beginning of the week. In the days following, you might focus on the sermon text chosen by Brian. Read it aloud and listen to your words. Ponder it anew each day. See new dimensions of its message. Pay attention to your attitudes and how the Spirit may be reforming them. And rest in the richness of God's nourishing Word as you grow into the justice, kindness, and humility that delight God.

**Notes for participating in Christ's mission this week:**

**Remember to pray for the faithfulness of Brentwood  
in its mission this week.**

\* A good introduction to *lectio divina* is Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (Eerdmans, 2009)