



MARCH

6

FIRST  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT.

# Gospel Eco

*An Ecological Echo to Sunday's Good News*

Pope Francis has asked us Catholics to join this March 2, Ash Wednesday, in the Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in Ukraine. Many believers have joined this proposal with faith.

Thus, united with the suffering of a people facing difficult hours, of unimaginable suffering, we have begun Lent. In his invitation, the Pope said: "Jesus has taught us that the diabolical foolishness of violence is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting."

- What do the Pope's words make me think?
- In this context of violence, how can I signify the Lenten practices of prayer and fasting?

Undoubtedly, in this Lent 2022, reality asks us for a lucid critical attention to the covert claims to power of the groups responsible for the current war and also to personal inclinations. Controlling and subduing others is a path of death. Jesus went through another life, not exempt from difficulties and temptations. This Sunday's Gospel presents it to us.



Lk 4, 1-13

Gospel



CLICK



Filled with the holy Spirit,\* Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days,\* to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, "I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me."

Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'" 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, and: 'With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him in reply, "It also says, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.



## REFLECTION

The Gospel of Luke places, at the beginning of Jesus' mission, the experience of being tempted by the devil. The Gospels of Mark and Matthew also point this out. This experience can be summarized as follows: to three diabolical suggestions three negatives of Jesus. Why are three temptations listed? Because the three temptations are a compendium of all human temptations. These are the same ones that the Israelites experienced in the desert, from which they were not victorious. They are the ones that are also presented to us throughout our existence. Taken together, the three temptations try to distract our relationship with God by trapping us in temporal goods and powers.

Thus we have that, the temptations to which the human being succumbs the most are those that have to do with accumulating material goods, taking advantage of social positions to seek privileges, or considering wealth as the ultimate goal of existence. Jesus invites us not to get caught up in them. In the face of hunger, it teaches us not to lose the alliance with God in the name of necessity, such as justifying the obtaining of goods and money through corruption and injustice. Faced with this trend, the example of Jesus is do not opt for bribes, and with it for other vices that lead us to lose our freedom and our dignity of christian.

Lent is a privileged time to grow in spiritually and in solidarity. Fasting and prayer are the means we have to achieve this. Fasting will have to be placed well, because there are those who do it because they have no other option, they lack food.

And others do it for personal care, through diet. Fasting in the Lenten context is taken as a spiritual act, with a strong symbolic charge, it is enough to remember what the prophet Isaiah refers to: "This is the fast that I want: loosen the unjust chains, untie the straps of the yoke, liberate the oppressed, break all yokes, break your bread with the hungry, shelter the poor homeless, cover who you see naked and not ignore your own. Then your light will rise like the dawn, immediately your wounds will be healed, justice will march before you, and the glory of the Lord behind you" (Is 58, 6-8).

Lent is a time to strengthen our faith and to give up our comforts and think about the common good that now includes solidarity with our brothers and sisters who directly experience the new war, as well as care for Nature that has suffered. It implies an intimate decision, self-discipline, freedom from consumerism, selfishness, and false needs. "Fasting is meaningless if it does not educate sobriety and if it is not accompanied by a constant desire for self-discipline" (Gandhi) and if it does not make us more committed to those who need it.

The encyclical *Laudato Si* tells us: "Humanity is called to become aware of the need to make changes in lifestyles, production and consumption", personally, what changes in lifestyles, production and consumption, I promise to live in this Lent?



## PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Loving God, we are shocked by the violence in the World, and especially now by the acts of war in Ukraine. Make us stand in solidarity with those who suffer, and who today live-in fear and agony. Support the hope of all who in this beloved part of the world seek justice and peace. Send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Peace, to inspire the leaders of nations and all peoples. Amen.

(Cf. Community of Taizé)



Hna. Lic. Gladys De la Cruz HCJC. - P. Dr. Saju George SVD.

Any comment? Do you want to receive the Gospel Eco by WhatsApp?

Write to us: [cuidadocasacomun@gmail.com](mailto:cuidadocasacomun@gmail.com)