

## Readings for March 9, 2025

### **Luke 4:1-13**

paraphrased from *The Message*

Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry. The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: "Since you're God's Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread." Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to really live." For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, "They're yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I'm in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they're yours, the whole works." Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: "Worship the Beloved, the fullness of all that is Sacred. Serve with absolute single-heartedness." For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, "If you are God's Son, jump. It's written, isn't it, that 'he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone?'" "Yes," said Jesus, "and it's also written, 'Don't you dare tempt the Holy.'" That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

### **Another Sacred Text**

from Roman Payne

I've decided the act that cannot wait  
is the important will to create  
But, ah, if my belly is ignored  
the pantry door I shall implore  
But I've been known to reach the bed  
ideas still famished in my head.