

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## The Second Sunday of Lent



**Today's Gospel reading: Mark 8: 31-38**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

Last week, we began the season of Lent and heard about Jesus in the wilderness, being tempted to make wrong choices about his ministry. This week, we learn an important lesson about how to deal with temptation in our own lives.

At a place called Caesarea Philippi, which was full of temples and idols to various gods from different cults, Jesus had asked his disciples a very important question about who they thought he was. Peter's response had been spot on – "You are the Christ." This hadn't got quite the response Peter might have expected, because Jesus went on to tell his disciples that he would suffer, be rejected and killed.

Peter wasn't happy and let Jesus know this, but Jesus saw Peter's words as yet another temptation to take an easier route in his ministry – to be popular, a celebrity, a miracle-worker. Peter was trying to make Jesus do something that wasn't in his plan, so Jesus reminded him that he was thinking too much about "human things" and not enough about "divine things."

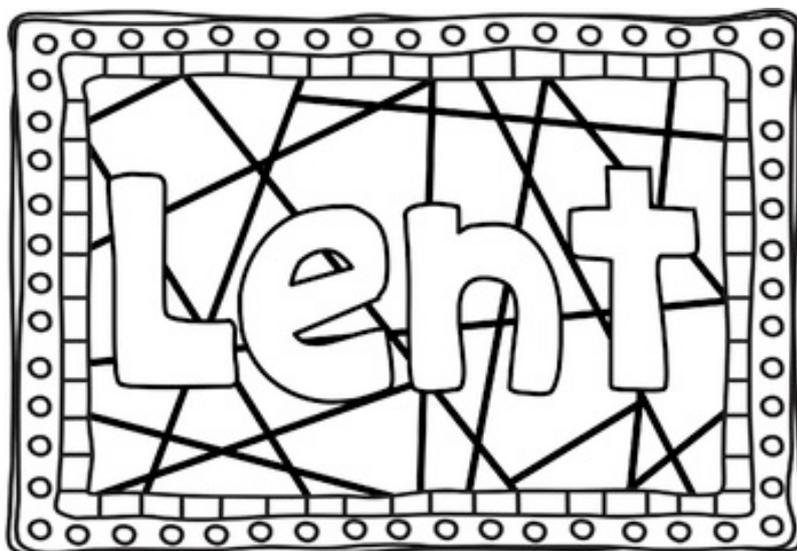
Now, there's a good test for all of us!

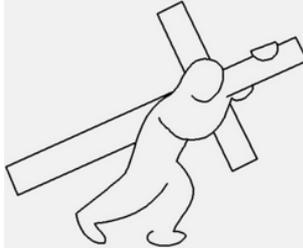
We are constantly challenged to choose between what is of God and what is of our own ego. When we are tempted by such a choice, we can always ask ourselves, "What would God want us to do?" It usually works!

A prayer for this week:

Father God, sometimes we are faced with such difficult choices. Help us to make decisions based on the things of eternity, rather than human concerns and to do what you want. Amen.

Did you manage to find out what colour the Church uses in its vestments during Lent? If you watch our Eucharist online, you will see that it is purple! You could colour the word "Lent" in purple to remind you!





Jesus went on to tell his followers that they must take up their cross.  
Would you like to have a go at this puzzle?

## Take Up Your Cross

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34b (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	L	R	W	C	M	H	Q	K	D	G	P	S	Z	B	E	I	U	Y	J	A	V	O	X	N	F

1. 10-16-25-19 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 20-16-13-18-13 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 13-21-22-16 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 4-23-3-2-10 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 13-18-26-26-16-3 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 2-17-26-16 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 13-23-18-2 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 11-21-17-25 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 1-21-9-16 \_\_\_\_\_
10. 7-17-6-13-16-2-26 \_\_\_\_\_
11. 1-16-21-5-7 \_\_\_\_\_
12. 5-3-23-13-13 \_\_\_\_\_
13. 26-23-2-2-23-4 \_\_\_\_\_
14. 2-23-13-16 \_\_\_\_\_
15. 26-23-3-26-16-17-1 \_\_\_\_\_

SAVE	TAKE	SOUL	DENY	HIMSELF
WORLD	CROSS	FOLLOW	JESUS	LOSE
FORFEIT	GAIN	TEACH	LIFE	SUFFER

A cross for you to colour:

