

This is the First Sunday of Lent, the first step in a forty day journey that prepares our hearts to remember the baptismal promises made to us our baptism: that God would be faithful to us in all the ups and downs of our lives.

Our gospel reading from Luke begins with Jesus returning to the place of his baptism, the place where God confirmed Jesus' identity as the Son of God, the Beloved of God. Filled with this knowledge and with the presence of the Spirit, Jesus is led to the desert, a biblical place of wrestling with one's faith and faithfulness to God. In this passage we see Jesus confronted by the demons of power, control and prestige, and the temptation to be less than he is. But Jesus knew who he was and held fast to the Spirit within.

This Lent we are invited to the desert for forty days so that we might deepen our understanding of who we are – the Beloved of God. We are confronted with temptations to be other than we are called to be. We may have our own issues with power, control, prestige, and more.

Today, at the beginning of this Lenten Journey, let us take moment of silence to reflect on the following questions:

Where are we wrestling with our faith or our faithfulness these days?

What grace of God or virtue do we need to pray for to strengthen our faith?

As we begin this season of Lent, let us pray with and for another that we may have the wisdom and courage to become all that God calls us to be: The Beloved of God.