

# *Joining the Feast*

Year C, Spring  
First Sunday in Lent—Day of Pentecost



# What you will find in *Joining the Feast!*

## The Church Year Calendar

Describes the important church festivals and special days for the coming season. It provides theological reflections on their importance for the church's life and our own lives.

## The Shape of the Season

Presents an overview of the focus scriptures for the weeks in the coming season. It discusses the biblical and theological significance of each of the passages.

## Joining Worship and Learning: Making the Connections and Time with Children

In this section of *Joining the Feast*, you will find charts that list connections between activities in the age-level materials and worship. A story to use in the children's time during worship follows the chart for each week. Notice that some songs are used by several age levels but not in the same session. If you are interested in including a prayer, poetry, or artwork from an age level, speak with the leader in advance. May your congregational worship be enlivened by these suggestions to join worship and learning.

## Joining Mission and Learning

Help the participants in *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* resources connect with existing service opportunities in your congregation. Review this list, and offer suggestions to the leaders. Give this chart to the chair of the mission or outreach committee so that the work of the committee can be strengthened through the church school.

## Litanies and Prayers

A selection of poetic prayers and responsive readings that helps worship leaders connect the church's educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God.

## Children's Bulletins

A fun activity page is provided weekly to give children a sense of belonging and help them feel welcome in the worship experience. These special children's bulletins connect their worship experience to the education themes.

## Joining the Feast

We invite you to “Join the Feast”!

Our exciting *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* offers great opportunities for the local church. Pastors, educators, and participants can experience the wonder of God’s nourishing word to us. For church schools, for study groups, and for those preparing to teach or preach, the resources here will deepen and strengthen our faith. We have an amazing “feast” set before us! We desire and can find further understanding in our faith—of who God is and what God has done!

*Joining the Feast* helps pastors, educators, and worship leaders plan for education and worship. We want to assist in reflecting on how to incorporate scriptural and seasonal emphases across different parts of the church’s life.

*Joining the Feast* can be shared in education and worship committees. It enables important biblical themes to be integrated into the church’s study and worship experiences. A chart of suggestions for ways educational emphases can be used in worship is a feature of what follows here. Church school teachers can discuss these materials with one another to enhance education for all age levels in the church. Pastors who plan their lectionary preaching will find taking an overall look at this church season to be useful for their preparations. In all this we want to join teaching and preaching. We want the church’s educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God!

An important goal for pastors and educators in the church is to connect or join the church’s educational experience with the church’s worship experience. People of all ages who participate in church school study can find their Christian faith enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship reinforce and expand what they have been considering in their educational time. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God’s word in Scripture come alive in the Sunday morning experience. Consideration of the same lectionary reading in preaching can deepen the insights gained in church school.

Pastors who want to build on what has been done in education welcome this *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* as a way to prepare congregational members for directions into which the sermon can lead. Those who participate in the education time will find the insights gained there enhanced by preaching that considers the same passage and brings God’s word to bear in fresh and nourishing ways. So as we “Join the Feast,” joining the church’s educational and worship dimensions can bring to life the richness of God’s word in Scripture.

Donald K. McKim



## But You're God's Son

based on Luke 4:1-13

John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Then God's Spirit led Jesus into the desert wilderness. According to the Bible, for 40 days, Jesus didn't eat anything.

During these days, the devil, an evil spirit, tempted Jesus. The evil spirit wanted Jesus to worship and follow the evil ways, not God's ways. An evil spirit came to Jesus and said, "I know you are hungry. You are God's Son; turn these stones into bread."

Jesus said, "It is written in God's Word, 'People don't live by bread alone.'"

The evil spirit took Jesus to a mountain. "If you worship me, I can put you in charge of all the lands you can see."

Jesus said, "It is written in God's Word, 'Worship and serve only God.'"

"Jesus," said the evil spirit, 'come with me to the highest point of the temple. Since you are God's Son and it is written in God's Word, I know that if you fall from here angels will protect you so you won't be hurt. I know this because it is written in God's Word. Come on, give it a try.'"

But Jesus was not going to be tricked. He answered, "It says not to tempt or test God."

The evil spirit had had enough for now. He left Jesus until he could find another time to tempt him.



## Word Search Plus

Cross out all the story words in the puzzle. Write the remaining letters in order on the lines below to see one thing Jesus said to the evil spirit.

T J E S U S D W A L O N E  
 E M O T N P O I A N G E L  
 M O T O B I B L E W T P A  
 P U H N A R R D E O T R N  
 T N U E P I E E S R E O D  
 E T N S T T A R L S M T S  
 D A G G I E D N I H P E F  
 T I R O Z S D E V I L C A  
 G N Y D E T O S E P E T L  
 J O R D A N D S E R V E L

ALONE  
 ANGEL  
 BAPTIZE  
 BIBLE  
 BREAD  
 DEVIL  
 FALL  
 GOD

HUNGRY  
 JESUS  
 JORDAN  
 LIVE  
 LANDS  
 MOUNTAIN  
 PROTECT  
 SERVE

SPIRIT  
 STONES  
 TEMPLE  
 TEMPTED  
 TEST  
 WILDERNESS  
 WORSHIP

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