

A reading from Matthew (1st reading from NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

After 1st reading: "I wonder what word or image speak to you... nudge you...holds you, reaches out to you, from the reading."

A reading from Matthew

(2nd reading from *The Message*)

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: “Since you are God’s Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread.” Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

After 2nd reading: “I wonder where you are in this story, or what part of the story is about you.”

A reading from Matthew

(3rd reading from "First Nations Version, An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament")

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) followed the guidance of the Spirit, who took him into the desert wilderness to be tested by Accuser (Satan), the evil trickster snake. For forty days and nights Creator Sets Free (Jesus) ate nothing. His body became weak, and his hunger grew strong. When the evil snake saw that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) was weak and hungry, e came to him and whispered in his ear.

"Are you the Son of the Great Spirit?" he hissed. "Prove it by turning these stones into frybread."

The Sacred Teachings are clear," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "Human beings cannot live only on frybread, but on all the words that come from the mouth of the Great Spirit."

After 3rd reading: "I wonder what God's Spirit is saying to us today."