

## *The Temptation*

### **Leader**

Jesus, when you were tempted in the wilderness, you reminded us that we do not live by bread alone, "but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." As we meet this morning, bless us with spiritual integrity and a hunger for true bread, the holy Word of God.

### **Reader One**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert, for forty days being put to the test by the devil.

*Jesus, walk with us in our desert lands; walk with us this day.*

### **Reader Two**

During that time he ate nothing, and at the end he was hungry.

*Jesus, walk with us in our desert lands; walk with us this day.*

### **Reader Three**

Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf." But Jesus replied, "Scripture says: Human beings live not on bread alone."

*Jesus, walk with us in our desert lands; walk with us this day.*

### **Reader Four**

Jesus, as we experience our own deserts, and face the vulnerability of hunger, weakness, and temptation, send your discerning Spirit to be our companion and to strengthen us.

*Jesus, walk with us in our desert lands; walk with us this day.*

**Reader Five**

Walk with us as we face the shadow side of our personal wilderness. Assist us in extending your care and mercy to others as they strive to walk through their deserts. May we embody the holiness of your Spirit to the lonely, homeless, and brokenhearted people, and to those who hunger and thirst for dignity.

*Jesus, walk with us in our desert lands; walk with us this day.*

**Leader**

Lord of us all, seeking the true Bread of wisdom and courage, we come to you. Help us to be sensitive to our various appetites and inner voices. May our deepest appetite and hunger always be for your inspired Word and Holy Spirit.

*Jesus, walk with us in our desert lands; walk with us this day.*

+ Amen +

