



## 2010 Lenten Meditations

Written by Parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral / Compiled by The Daughters of the Holy Cross

Masthead courtesy of Susan Craig

### **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** **Mark 1: 1-13**

Many believe that Mark's gospel was the first gospel written and he is retelling what was told to him by Peter. Mark wastes no time. He boldly states in the first verse that this is: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." This is Jesus' coming out party. Mark doesn't lead into the main story line with Jesus' birth or stories of His youth. Instead He is quickly identified as the Son of God.

We are introduced to Jesus through John the Baptist, who fulfills the Old Testament prophecy that someone will come to prepare the way for the Messiah. John was "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and Jesus comes to him to be baptized. Think about that for a minute and the power of our Lord's humility. Here is the first sighting of Jesus and He appears not as an all powerful ruler or larger than life character but rather as a humble petitioner, a common-folk being, seeking to be cleansed just like everybody else. Jesus needed no baptism as He was without sin but yet He submits to the ritual anyway and only after His baptism does God speak and acknowledge Jesus as His son. "The heavens were torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove", the Lord speaks, then the Spirit whisks Jesus out into the wilderness. Once again Mark doesn't beat around the bush as we are introduced to Father, Son and Holy Spirit all in the first lines. This elevates the importance of His baptism and leaves a clear signal that He has been "outed" and His public ministry now begins.

### **Rocky Menge**

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