

Readers Theatre for Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)

- *As the story begins, **Jesus** walks to center at floor level, looking prayerful and hungry.*

Narrator 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 **Devil** enters, crosses to **Jesus**, looking smug, and maybe hungry, too.*

Narrator The tempter came and said to him...

Devil “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

Jesus “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

- ***Jesus** and **Devil** move to higher position in the chancel, **Jesus** perhaps standing on a chair. **Jesus** teeters a bit from the height.*

Narrator Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,

Devil “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

- ***Jesus** and **Devil** move to highest position available - choir loft, balcony, ladder - Both looking out over creation.*

Narrator Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Jesus “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

- ***Devil** shrugs and exits. **Jesus** walks back to original position on the floor. **Angels** enter, cross to **Jesus**, carrying food and water.*

Narrator Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

- *Exeunt.*