

Sunday 18th February 2024

The First Sunday of Lent

Reading 1: Genesis 9: 8 – 17

Reading 2: 1 Peter 3:18 - end

Gospel: Mark 1: 9 - 15

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you. Amen.

Psalm: 25: 1 – 9

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

Song: (click link) *Praise to the Lord* <https://youtu.be/vegvb1u5s4>

Invitation to Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

"The first commandment is this:

Hear O, Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind
and with all your strength"

The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself".

There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask His mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Wash away all my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.
Lord have mercy.

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God.
And renew a right spirit within me.
Lord have mercy.

Absolution:

May Almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring us His pardon and His peace,
now and forever. Amen.

Reading1: Genesis 9: 8 – 17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹² God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1: 9 – 15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you O Christ.

Talk: Jenny (*click link*) <https://youtu.be/Gs6jFMWO8Ew>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The Creed

Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)

As we begin our Lenten journey we turn in prayer to God our Father asking for his help as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection at Easter:

For the Church, that she may be a sign of God's light and goodness in our world, and a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable. (pause)

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

For all who are preparing to be baptised at Easter and all who will be received into full communion with the Church: that they will always recognise the presence of Christ in their lives. (pause)

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

For each of us as we prepare to keep Lent Fast days, that we may have a true Spirit of self-denial and be content with less so that others may have more. (pause)

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

For all who suffer violence, fear or desperation, that they will be strengthened through the mercy of God and the support of God's people. (pause)

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters everywhere that the Holy Spirit will inspire and challenge us to live out our call to be 'a poor Church for the poor'. (pause)

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

For all who are sick or suffering in any way, that they will be strengthened by the knowledge of Christ's love. (pause)

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

God our Father in every age you call a people to hear your word and to do your will. Open our eyes to your deeds and our ears to the sound of your call so that our every act may increase our sharing in the new life you offer to us.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God*

and give Him thanks.

Song: (click link) *Great is thy Faithfulness*

<https://youtu.be/dTKlqmdfHSk>

Prayer.

God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you have reconciled your people to yourself.
As we follow His example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in Holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing:

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen us to proclaim Christ as Lord.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all those whom we love,
this day and always. Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.