

## READINGS

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

## OPENING PRAYER

God of the everlasting covenant,  
as you swept away the world's corruption  
with the waters of the flood,  
so are your people cleansed  
through the waters of baptism;  
and we are born again.

Throughout these forty days of Lent,  
release the wellspring of your grace,  
cleanse our hearts,  
and give the gift of new life  
to your people once again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord and our Liberator,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,  
in this holy bread  
you increase our faith and hope and love.  
Strengthen and nurture us  
in the new life you give us,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

*A Reading from the Book of Genesis.*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and 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. I establish my covenant with you:

Never again shall all flesh be swept away by the waters of a flood, and never again shall a flood destroy the earth."

God said, "Here 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: I have set a rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between your God and every living creature that is on the earth."

God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things that are on the earth."

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 25:1-9

To you, O God, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you.

**Let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
**let the treacherous  
be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O God,  
and teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O God, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

**Remember not the sins of my youth  
and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O God.**

Gracious and upright is our God;  
whose way is taught to sinners;  
**who guides the humble in doing right;  
whose way is taught to the lowly.**

All the paths of our God are love and faithfulness  
**to those who keep the covenant  
and obey God's testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

*A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.*

Christ suffered once and for all for the sins of everyone, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh, but was given life in the spirit, in which also he went and preached to the imprisoned spirits, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few—that is, eight persons—were saved through water.

That water prefigured the water of baptism, which now saves you—not as the removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God by a good conscience: it brings salvation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who entered into heaven and is now at the right hand of God, having dominion over the angels, over authorities and powers.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:9-15

*The Lord be with you.*

***And with thy spirit.***

*The Holy Gospel*

*of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*according to Mark.*

***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

*God be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*The Good News*

*of Jesus Christ*

*according to Mark.*

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Only-begotten, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; he was with the wild beasts; and the angels attended to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God, saying, "The time is fulfilled! The reign of God is at hand! Repent, and believe this Good News."

*The Gospel of Christ.*

***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

*The Gospel of Christ.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***