

Sunday, February 26, 2012
First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8–17

A reading from _____.

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸Then 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. ¹¹I 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." ¹²God 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: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶When 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." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1–10

Refrain: Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,**

and teach | me your paths. R

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way. R**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

**¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18–22

A reading from _____.

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9–15

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

We pray for the church in this season of Lent; for our denomination and our full-communion partners; for our congregation and other congregations in our community (*especially*); for those persons preparing for baptism (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the wild beasts, the birds, the domestic animals, and every living creature; for the wilderness areas on this continent; for rain, enough but not too much. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those countries, cities, and villages that have been ravaged by floods (*especially*); for those who provide leadership in times of chaos; for disaster relief workers and aid organizations. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for people in prison; for those who live in long-term care facilities (*especially*); for the homeless, the sick (*especially*); for the dying, and those who will die today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this community; for single people; for married couples, and those who are divorced; for widows and widowers; for children and youth; for those who come here in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the everlasting covenant you have made with all flesh, and we remember our ancestors and loved ones, who know the fulfillment of your promises (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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