

# **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**First Sunday of Lent**

21 February 2021

## GREETING

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Lord, direct our thoughts,

help us to pray,

and lift our hearts to worship you

in Spirit and in truth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**

# CONFESSION

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,  
returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,  
where for forty days  
he was tempted by the devil.

Let us confess our sins  
remembering before God the times  
when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace,  
now and for ever.

**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.**

## **READING** Genesis 9.8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and 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, 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.'

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: I have set my bow 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 bow is seen in the clouds, 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.

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.' 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.**

## PSALM 25.1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame,

but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

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

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

Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions,  
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.

Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right  
and teach his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth  
to those who keep his covenant  
and his testimonies.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

## **GOSPEL READING** Mark 1.9-15

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

# INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Lord.

*At the end this response may be included:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**HYMN**

## BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves,  
take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*Stay with us  
for tea, coffee and chat.*

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