

# Morning Prayer

## The First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zzo>

9

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

*As a Lenten practice for us as a congregation, we would like to keep a period of five minutes silence before the Prelude begins. Zoom participants will be muted at 9:55 a.m. We are taking on this practice as an opportunity for all worshippers to gather their thoughts, spend a brief time in prayer, and prepare their hearts for worship.*

### Prelude

### Announcements

### The Great Litany

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,

**Savior deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,

**Savior deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil,

**Savior deliver us.**

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,

**Savior deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death  
and at the day of judgment,

**Savior deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

**Savior deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;  
by the preaching of your reign,

**Savior deliver us.**

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;  
by your precious death and burial,

**Savior deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

**Savior deliver us.**

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth;  
and grant it that unity which is your will.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,  
and to make disciples of all the nations.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Enlighten your bishops, priests, deacons, and ministry teams  
with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives  
they may proclaim your word.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give your people grace to witness to your word  
and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted;  
raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give your wisdom and strength to the President of the United States, and  
the Governor of this state, that in all things they may do your will,  
for your glory and the common good.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet,  
those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority  
the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law,  
that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Bless and keep all your people,

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved (especially \_\_\_\_\_) and the oppressed.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Keep in safety those who must travel and all who are in peril.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Heal those who are sick in body, mind or spirit (especially \_\_\_\_\_)  
and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Show your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees,  
and all who are in trouble.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died (especially \_\_\_\_\_)  
and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your word.

**Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy on us.**

*The Presider then says*

Hear these words of scripture:

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth. If we confess  
our sins, God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every  
kind of wrong.

**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

**Confession of Sin**

*The Presider then says*

Let us keep silence, remembering our need for God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*A Priest then says*

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive + your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Presider* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Lord be gracious to us; we long for you.

**Be our strength every morning; our salvation in time of distress.**

## **Psalm 67:1-5**

*Deus misereatur*

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, \*

show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

**Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
**let all the peoples praise you.**

### **Psalm 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>I offer my life to you, LORD. My God, I trust you.  
Please don't let me be put to shame!

Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!

<sup>2</sup>**For that matter,  
don't let anyone who hopes in you  
be put to shame;  
instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.**

<sup>3</sup>Make your ways known to me, LORD;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>4</sup>**Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—  
because you are the God who saves me.  
I put my hope in you all day long.**

<sup>5</sup>LORD, remember your compassion and faithful love—  
they are forever!

<sup>6</sup>**But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing.  
Remember me only according to your faithful love  
for the sake of your goodness, LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD is good and does the right thing;  
he teaches sinners which way they should go.

<sup>8</sup>**God guides the weak to justice,  
teaching them his way.**

<sup>9</sup>All the LORD's paths are loving and faithful  
**for those who keep his covenant and laws.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Lord be gracious to us; we long for you.

**Be our strength every morning; our salvation in time of distress.**

### **The Lessons**

#### **First Reading**

Genesis 9:8-17

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>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: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>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.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*             **Thanks be to God.**

## **Canticle 14: A Song of Penitence**

*Kyrie Pantokrator*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
and of all their righteous offspring:

**You made the heavens and the earth, \***  
**with all their vast array.**

All things quake with fear at your presence; \*  
they tremble because of your power.

**But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; \***  
**it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.**

O Lord, you are full of compassion, \*  
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

**You hold back your hand; \***  
**you do not punish as we deserve.**

In your great goodness, Lord,  
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

**And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \***  
**and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.**

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
and I know my wickedness only too well.

**Therefore I make this prayer to you: \***

**Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.**

Do not let me perish in my sin, \*

nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

**For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, \***

**and in me you will show forth your goodness.**

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,

in accordance with your great mercy, \*

and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.

**For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, \***

**and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:18-22

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

<sup>18</sup>Christ 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

Hymnal 150

*Forty days and forty nights*

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
 2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
 2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
 3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
 4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
 5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

### Third Reading

Mark 1:9-15

A Reading from Mark.

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

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



*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

### The Apostles' Creed

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### The Prayers

*Presider* Hear our cry, O God.  
*People* **And listen to our prayer.**  
*Presider* Let us pray.

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven;  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
Sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test; strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

V. Make you ways known upon earth, O God,  
**R. Your saving power among all peoples.**  
V. Renew your Church in holiness,  
**R. And help us to serve you with joy.**  
V. Guide the leaders of this and every nation,  
**R. That justice may prevail throughout the world**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten,  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Make us instruments of your peace,  
**R. And let your glory be over all the earth.**

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit; and as you know our weakness and the temptations that will bring us down, Grant that our love for you may protect us from all foolish and corrupting desire, and may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

## **Intercessions and thanksgivings**

*Presider* Confident that with our hearts set on the glorious act of redemption revealed by God's beloved One, we receive the gift of new life, we offer our prayers and respond, "Kyrie eleison."

*Intercessor* That the arms of Christ will reach into our spiritual tombs, releasing us from the fires of sin and division, of death and despair, and set our eyes upon the eighth day of our inheritance; let us pray. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Silence is kept.*

That the breath of God may rush into the hearts of the faithful, filling them with respect for the wisdom of their forebears, and the courage to walk where their feet have never trod; let us pray. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Silence is kept.*

For the unemployed, and all those who live with financial anxiety; for children born into poverty, and those whose wealth does not buy contentment; for those in troubled marriages and the lonely who suffer in silence; [and for \_\_\_\_\_] that all may be held by the risen Christ, who broke through the walls of darkness; let us pray. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Silence is kept.*

For the healing of our environment, and for the vision to see ourselves as a global community, interdependent, economically woven, spiritually bonded, technologically linked, and physically united; let us pray. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Silence is kept.*

In thanksgiving for our life together, [and for \_\_\_\_\_]; our persistence in listening to the divine word, and our commitment to proclaim the life-giving love of God; let us pray. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Silence is kept.*

For those who have died in the faith of Christ, [especially \_\_\_\_\_], that they may reside in paradise; let us pray. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Silence is kept.*

In the certain hope of the resurrection from the dead, let us continue, praying today for our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. We pray for all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and

sisters worshipping at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, and St Elizabeth's, Redford; and St John the Baptist, Bonaio, in the Dominican Republic. **Kyrie eleison.**

*Presider* Be gracious to your people, we entreat you, O Lord, that they, repenting day by day of the things that displease you, may be more and more filled with love of you and of your commandments; and, being supported by your grace in this life, may come to the full enjoyment of eternal life in your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

*The Presider then says*

My sisters and brothers, I invite you- wherever you are- to take into your hands the gifts you offer today. Gifts of food, gifts of money, gifts of whatever form, and join me as we offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you. **Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: **Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

Hymnal 641

*Lord Jesus, think on me*

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op - pressed;  
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is passed,

from harm - ful pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.  
 let me thy lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste thy prom - ised rest.  
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heav - en - ly way.  
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

## Dismissal

*Presider* Lord, when we pity ourselves and think we make great sacrifices for others:

*People* **Remind us of your life-giving sacrifice on the Cross.**

Lord, when our patience wears thin and we are ready to give up:

**Speak to us through the example of your endurance on the Cross.**

Lord, when we get angry and wish to retaliate against our enemies:

**Bring to our remembrance your words to your enemies from the Cross.**

Lord, when we feel rejected or persecuted for doing what is right and good:

**Sustain us by the knowledge of how you were reviled and rejected on the Cross.**

Lord, when we suffer pain of body or anguish of mind in this life:

**Keep us near the Cross.**

Lord, when we are afraid to stand for that which is true and honorable:

**Strengthen us with the courage with which you went to the Cross.**

Lord, when we feel alone in the world, forsaken and forgotten:

**Comfort us with your love made known on the Cross.**

Lord, when we come to the time of our own death:

**Uphold us with the assurance that life did not end for you on the Cross.**

Lord, when we are tempted by despair or fear of what lies ahead:  
**Fill us with the hope of resurrection and new life which are the fruits of your Cross. Amen.**

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all + evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

**Postlude**

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**REGARDING OFFERINGS TO ST. BARNABAS CHURCH**

**To make an offering to St Barnabas**, please mail your check to the church: 20500 W Old US-12, Chelsea MI 48118-1309. Mail is being collected daily.

**CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS  
TO FAITH IN ACTION**

Faith in Action is continuing to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They will be in need of our continuing help in the weeks of winter still to come.

**Needed right now:** *boxed/shelf-stable milk, cooking oil, salt/pepper, spices, coffee, tea bags, sugar, flour, canned tuna, crackers, cake mix, canned frosting, dish soap, women's hygiene products.* You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **TODAY**. The building will be open for you to leave your donations.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at [www.faithinaction1.org](http://www.faithinaction1.org), by Facebook, or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118*. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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**Upcoming Commemorations**

- Feb 21 John Henry Newman, Priest and Theologian, 1890
- 22 Eric Liddell, Missionary to China, 1945; and, Margaret of Cortona, Monastic, 1297
- 23 Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, 156;

- and, Kate Harwood Waller Barrett, Physician and Humanitarian, 1925  
 24 Matthias the Apostle; and, Amanda Berry Smith, Preacher and Missionary, 1915  
 25 Photini, the Samaritan Woman at the Well; and, John Roberts, Priest, 1949  
 26 Emily Malbone Morgan, Lay Leader and Contemplative, 1937  
 27 George Herbert, Priest and Poet, 1633



**February 21, 2021 – Lent 1B**

**Genesis 9:8-17**

The covenant that God establishes here is an unusual covenant. Most covenants are between two entities, with the more powerful one promising protection and provision and the less powerful one promising fealty. Here, however, God establishes a covenant with not just Noah, but with “every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” Noah is merely a stand-in entity; God makes this promise to the billions and billions of creatures, both human and animal, who will call Earth home. Further, despite the fact that the first flood was the consequence of humanity’s evil, God requires no promises from humanity in this covenant. God will never destroy the earth by flood again, even though humanity is still sinful and will forsake God again. The rainbow is God’s pledge to us of this unusual covenant: a sign visible to all generations that God will remember God’s abundant promises.

- What kind of a God makes a one-sided, everlasting covenant with humanity? What aspects of God’s character does this passage highlight?
- God promises to remember this covenant through the rainbow. What does it mean for us as humans to remember this covenant?

**Psalm 25:1-9**

“God is God. I am not God. That is a very good thing.” Early in my development as a Christian leader, a mentor encouraged me to tell myself that regularly. The Psalmist here has a clear understanding of his position before God, as he cries out in trust and faith, a position which we can imitate today. We entrust our souls to God; we trust God for justice for the wicked; we trust God to teach us truth; we trust God to remember God’s compassion and love but to forget our sinfulness; we trust God to show us God’s paths of love and faithfulness so that we may walk in them. We cannot do any of these things for ourselves; we are wholly dependent on God. In each act of trust, we remember our place before our God who loves us and offers us forgiveness, which we accept in humility and gratefulness.

- In what ways in your own life have you seen evidence of God’s guidance, love, and faithfulness?

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

In the days of Noah, the sinful world was buried in a flood, and by God’s grace, Noah and those with him were saved in the ark – saved both from the waters of the flood and through the waters of the flood as the ark floated on them. Today, we experience salvation through the waters of baptism. We are buried with Christ in the waters, and through Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven for our sins and granted a clean

conscience before God. Christ's ascent into heaven and his victory over all authorities and powers assure us that this is true.

In baptism, God makes promises to us, the same way that God made a covenant with Noah after the flood. God is faithful to God's promises, and this faithfulness helps us to keep the promises we make in our baptismal covenant, to be faithful to God and to respect the dignity of all human beings.

- What encouragement can we find by remembering our baptism and baptismal covenant?

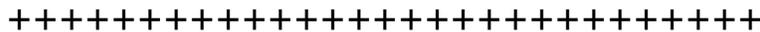
**Mark 1:9-15**

Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness, surrounded by wild animals and tempted by Satan. However, before he enters the wilderness, he is baptized and given a concrete reminder of his identity as God's Son and God's Beloved, which must have been a comfort and encouragement to him during his ordeal. When he returns, he is ready to begin his ministry by proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

This mirrors our experience in Lent. As we begin our forty days of fasting and repentance, the lectionary readings remind us of our baptismal identity. We are God's children and God's beloved, and God's promises of forgiveness will sustain us during these forty days. After Lent is over, we will proclaim Jesus' resurrection and God's kingdom during the season of Easter. May we find comfort and hope in the promises of our Savior during this season of repentance.

- How did Jesus' baptism and testing prepare him for his ministry?
- How do our baptisms and seasons of repentance ready us for ministry?

*This study written by Molly Jane Layton.*



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**Confession of Sin** sentences and Absolution from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, pp.36-38.

**Invitatory** sentences from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, p.592

**Psalm 25** from the *Common English Bible*, 2011 [Psalm 25 CEB - Psalm 25 - Of David. I offer my life to - Bible Gateway](#)

**Lord's Prayer** from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, p.181

**Suffrages** from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, p.50.

**Third Collect at the Prayers** from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, p.592

**Dismissal prayer** from *The Wideness of God's Mercy*, by Larry Hard, p.86.

**Our Mission:**

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.

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