



## OPENING PRAYER

**+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen**

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen  
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

## LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

### **Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

In this short passage, Jesus is driven by the Spirit into the desert after His baptism. What would the importance of going to the desert be for Jesus instead of staying on the shores of the Jordan? God's messengers took care of Jesus in the desert. What does this impress upon you as you experience your own struggles and trials? Jesus represents a time of fulfillment, that the kingdom is at hand. What does this say about the importance of repentance and belief?

### **Reading I: Genesis 9:8-15**

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

Before the flood, God promised to protect Noah. Noah's response was to build and fill the ark. How do we respond to God's promises? Covenants establish deep bonds between participating parties. What does this say about God's care for us? Despite our sinfulness, God remains faithful to us. How does knowledge affect the way we relate to Him and others?

## Notes

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

**Reading II: 1 Peter 3: 18-22**

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

St. Peter shares his thoughts about baptism based on Noah's experience in light of Christ's paschal mystery. What do we learn about God's patience? As believers, what gifts do we receive during the sacrament of baptism? Jesus' suffering led Him to continue God's work. How do we maintain a spirit of compassion and mercy while we suffer?

**Feast Days this Week**

- 18 Sunday First Sunday of Lent
- 19 Monday Lenten Weekday
- 20 Tuesday Lenten Weekday
- 21 Wednesday Lenten Weekday
- 22 Thursday The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle, Feast
- 23 Friday Lenten Weekday
- 24 Saturday Lenten Weekday

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

The pillars of Lent: **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** are expressions of the fundamental purpose of Lent. **Prayer** intentionally draws us close to God. **Fasting** from food or habits helps us recognize no one but God fulfills us. **Almsgiving** decreases our attachment to this world and strengthens our love of God and others through the giving of our time, talent and treasure.

*reflect*

Think about how deep God's love and mercy is for you!

*pray*

Father God, teach me to patient and merciful with others as You are with me. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

*give*

Commit to a lifelong close relationship with Christ.