



*Jesus
was in the
wilderness
forty days*

MARK 1:13

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Amy Hummer, Interim Preschool Director

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

Prayer As You Enter: *Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Why no alleluias or hymn of praise during Lent? You may have noticed that the act of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'" (http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lift up your souls to the Living God, who enters into covenant with us.

We wait on our Maker, trusting God's kindness and seeking to know God's ways.

Raise your eyes to behold Jesus Christ, who triumphs over death and destruction.

In Jesus Christ we renew our commitment to share the good news of God's realm.

Attune yourselves to the Holy Spirit and leave behind the wilderness of despair.

The Spirit sets us free from the limits of the flesh, from bondage to sin and decay.

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come and taste the goodness of God!

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.

Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let the hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Let us pray the collect together.

Loving God, whose realm was revealed to humankind in Jesus of Nazareth, open your heavens to us that the Spirit may come among us, reclaiming us, help us to know our infinite worth in your sight, strengthening us to cope with temptation, equipping us to minister in Christ's name. May our faithfulness draw others into your covenant community, where mutual trust and joyous service unite us in Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 25:1-10

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

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

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

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Mark 1:9-15

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.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“The Divine Promise”

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEOPLE’S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for the signs and wonders that reveal your presence. Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want to do our part to share your love with the world. Use our offerings and our lives to bring a realization of your reign among us. Extend your realm by re-creating the church as a true representation of Jesus Christ. May we be humble, teachable, and faithful as we seek to lead others into a covenant community. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you before all time, by whom you made the world and all things. We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people. Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us in our sin, but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. In the fullness of time you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus, who, in obedience, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death. We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory and ever lives to pray for us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church. Therefore, with your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise your holy name: **Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of all creation, and a world in need.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to free the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers and Worship Aids are given by **Greg Gruber** in memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber.

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Sandy Morris
Money Counters	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk, Bob Bistline
Altar Guild	Charlene Cristy, Anita Rohrer
Building Trustee	Mike Wagner
Ministries	Card Church Staff (Carol Kratz) Called to Care Anne Rankin Visitation Anita Rohrer

Attendance for Sun., Feb. 11	7:45–13	10:30–82	TOTAL – 95
Sunday School	20		
Ash Wednesday	2:00-21	7:00-38	TOTAL - 59

Happy Birthday

Tuesday – Ian Derstler

Thursday – George Adams

Friday – Ali Daly, Alison Kauffman

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Monday 7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM Bells

No Preschool

Tuesday 1:00 PM – Prayer Shawl

7:00 PM – Consistory/Bds.

Wednesday 7:00 PM – Lenten Service

Thursday 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM – Koinonia

10:30 AM – Eucharist

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Leo Daly

Hedwig Hunsicker

Denise Huggins

Jodi Keller

Rev. Ken Trauger

Don & Pat Miller

Nancy Patton

Dr. Janet Harriger

The Lehman family

Joann Peck

Harry Himelwright

Donna Wolf & Family

Mary Lou Shaab

Scott & Jane Owens

Stan & Pat Seachrist

Donna Zirkel

Carmen & Jerry Richards

Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley

Sam Minder III

Lainie Christensen

Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser

Hank Fox

Pastor Harry Royer

Betty Tyndall and family

Mary Witmer

Bob & Marlyn Wible

Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline

Erika Otthofer

Kathleen Sensenig Adams

Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Ron Becker

Danielle Huggins Holbein

Joann & Dawn Garvin

The Fischer Family

Dr. Blaine Connor

John Shelsky

Shelly Family

Michael McDonough

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)

Norma Mallard (friend of Gail Kogut)

Tom Chapman (brother of Rev. Jere Chapman)

Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)

Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Brian & Liz Culp (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)
Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)
Dan Doughton (Family friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)
Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)
Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)
The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)
Jaden Allen (nephew of Carol Kratz)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),
Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

THE FEBRUARY PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

DEVOTIONALS: The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. **Lenten devotionals are available on the table across from the church office.**

HOLY LAMENT: MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross---the place to which the season of Lent leads us---is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. as some of our clergy members or religious teachers in our midst preach. Below is the list of our themes and preachers:

February 21: What is Lament? --Rev. Dr. Carrie Call preaching

February 28: "Little" Laments--Dr. Randall Zachman preaching

March 6: Laments from the Depths--Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen preaching

March 13: Individual Lament--Rev. Bob Bistline preaching

March 20: Communal Lament--Rev. Ken Trauger preaching

Information about Holy Week & Easter services will be in the March Parish Post!

LENTEN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Wednesday Lenten services. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.

PRAYER SHAWL The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, February 20th from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

2023 ANNUAL REPORTS are available on both floors of the building!

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **February 25, March 3, 10, 17 & 24.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **March 3, 17, & 24.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS are available on the table across from the church office. The deadline is February 25!

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**



Here is a list of supplies needed by our Preschool. Please consider purchasing an item and placing it in the basket in the Narthex.

Small dry erase markers
Beginners pencils
Foil
Cotton balls
Coffee filters-large & small
Plain white muffin cups-small
Glue bottles with brushes
Scissor scoops
Plastic spoons and forks
Hot glue sticks

Thank you!

EXPLORING THE SKY ABOVE TRINITY U.C.C. WITH SUE BOWMAN

(Sue is a member of Trinity and a retired Astronomy teacher)

Calling all stargazers and those interested in enjoying a celestial evening out! Bring your telescopes and binoculars and join in the fun as the Trinity Preschool families and the members of Trinity explore **The Sky Above Trinity U.C.C.** This observation session will train the telescope at Jupiter and its moons, Earth's moon as well as deep sky clusters and nebulae. The Trinity Youth will be assisting with the setup and use of the equipment and may be found to be quite conversant on matters astronomical! Great chance to use the star chart provided or look ahead with one of these apps: *Star Chart, NASA app, Night Sky, Sky View Free, Star Walk2, Sky Safari.* You may wish to bring along lawn chairs. Until then, keep looking up!

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office

March 14th

6-7 pm Pizza

7 pm Brief Intro to the observation session

7:15 pm Observation begins



LIFE LINE SCREENING, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Trinity United Church of Christ on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered: **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque), Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation.**

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/>

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY: The Evangelism Committee is in need of more volunteers to provide meals for our members! If you are interested, speak with Pastor Chris!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

1. **The Wired Word Class** discusses how current events intersect with our faith. Diane Rice leads this class in the choir room.
2. **The Adult/Youth Class** meets in Isenberg Hall with Sue Bowman and Pastor Rankin leading the class. On February 18, this class will begin a new study, *Discovering the Psalms: Passion, Promise, & Praise*.
3. **The children** meet in the classroom on the lower level. Various teachers lead this lectionary-based class. **We need more teachers....speak to Sue Bowman, Bob Kilgore, or Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin.**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERIM ORGANIST

Dr. Robert Train Adams has a career of over 60 years as a church organist and choir director, most recently serving as Organist at First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon, and Minister of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda, California. He is retired from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, having also served at campuses of the University of California, Susquehanna University (Pennsylvania) and the University of Montevallo (Alabama) as music professor and department head.

Dr. Adams received music degrees through the Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley, having studied composition with Joaquin Nin-Culmell, Richard Felciano, and Olly Wilson. After being awarded the George Ladd Prix de Paris Dr. Adams studied composition at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, France, with Tony Aubin and Het Amsterdamsch Conservatorium in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with Ton de Leeuw. His compositional activities focus on a wide range of choral and instrumental chamber ensembles. In 1999, Dr. Adams composed the anthem *Isaiah's Call (In the Year that King Uzziah Died)* that was first presented at the annual meeting of the Penn Central Conference.

Bob and his wife, Marianne, recently moved to the Traditions of East Petersburg. We welcome them to Trinity Church!

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

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.”

Psalms 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

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.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

In 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.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

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