

Readings for Sunday, February 21, 2021  
*The First Sunday of Lent*

First Reading: 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."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old.  
In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD.

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Good and upright is the LORD, thus he shows sinners the way.

He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way.

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Second Reading: 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.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:4b

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

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."

## **Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and including "and became man", all bow.)*

And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day 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.

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

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

## **Prayers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus**

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.  
At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that,  
as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting  
might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will  
and to do what Jesus tells us: He who taught us to "love one another,  
as I have loved you"

took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows  
to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and  
minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

**V.** We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

**R.** Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

