

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**The First Sunday of Lent**

- 1) Genesis 9:8-15
- 2) 1 Peter 3:18-22
- 3) Mark 1:12-15

**FOCUS:** *Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

To repent means to feel regret and sorrow and to change, or "turn from" what is evil. Gospel is a word meaning "good news." To "repent and believe in the Gospel" is the twofold call of the Christian, which is brought into profound relief during the Lenten season. This time of prayer and preparation for Easter shows there is indeed cause for regret and sorrow, and a need for change. And yet, what we are turning toward as we turn from sin is always cause for joy and hope.

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, God makes a covenant with Noah. In the second reading, Peter reflects on how the waters of the flood prefigured baptism. In the Gospel, Jesus is driven into the desert for 40 days before beginning to preach: *The kingdom of God is hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

### **UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Let us turn to the Lord, trusting in his mercy and compassion, to hear and answer our prayers.

- 1) For the shepherds of the Church, may the hope of the Resurrection sustain them as they carry the cross of leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in governmental authority or leadership, may God give them prudence and wisdom to judge rightly and act for justice in every circumstance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel alone or hopeless in suffering, may God console and comfort them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord grant us perseverance and courage to truly repent this Lenten season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may perpetual light shine upon them, and through the mercy of God may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of boundless love, receive these prayers we offer you today, through Christ our Lord.