



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

First Sunday of Lent

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of Genesis:

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.”

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)

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.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Peter:

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.

The Word of the Lord

Verse before the Gospel

Matthew 4:4b

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

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:

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."

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.

So, we have begun of Lenten journey! Hopefully, you were able to start Lent off by going to an Ash Wednesday service or at least took some time that day to mark the beginning of this penitential season. Although we still find ourselves social distancing amid the pandemic, our journey of faith and call to live the Gospels continues – perhaps the call and invitation to the Gospel is even more important and relevant today than it ever was. So what Gospel truth, what reflection of faith do our readings today elicit? We are invited to see with new eyes and new hearts the manner in which Jesus comes to us and the world. In our first reading, we hear of Noah, the great flood, and the ark – this moment speaks to the covenant that God would never again use water to destroy the earth and the sign of this promise, the rainbow! This biblical story we know well, but we are invited to go deeper. Not only will God not destroy the earth again by water, but in fact, God transforms what was once a means and sign of destruction, into to new and everlasting life! As St. Paul points out, the great flood prefigured baptism, that puts an end to sin and death and brings about new life through grace! How amazing our Lord who uses and transforms the very things that bring death to bring life! How generous our Lord who continues to do that in your life – not just through the sacraments, but every other moment and aspect of your lives! This Lent, I invite you to enter into it with this understanding: that perhaps the very things that you struggle with, sin, temptation, anger, self-centeredness, etc. can be the very means that bring about not just new beginnings, but a deeper life of faith and relationship of love with God and each other. How? you might ask? Hear the words of Jesus in the Gospel:

“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Repent: take ownership of your brokenness and need for forgiveness and heal and entrust them to God. Without shame or self-righteousness, go to confession and let God wash them away. Believe in the Gospel: know that you are loved and precious in the sight of God – know that all others too are loved and precious to God- and love them, care for them, build and manifest the Kingdom of God everyday of your life! May this Lent be a time of great blessing!

- **What are the things in your life that you are in need of forgiveness and new life?**
- **What steps will you take to bring about reconciliation? How will you bring healing to your life and relationships? How will you bring healing to others?**
- **How will you enter into this Lenten season? What concrete choices or resolutions will you make?**

Nicene Creed:

ALL:

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,

(bow)

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

(raise from bow)

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

Presider: To the Lord of compassion and mercy, let us offer our prayers

Intercessions:

That these forty days of Lent may be a desert experience for each of us to rediscover the ways of God:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That all who serve the Church as pastors, ministers, and teachers may effectively proclaim the reign of God:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That those who govern nations and human destinies may be committed to the justice and mercy of God, working unceasingly for the alleviation of hunger and misery in our world:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That, in making moral and ethical choices, we may not bow before money, power, and prestige, but place our hope in the saving word of God:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That our compassionate father in heaven will watch over those who have been displaced from their homes by disaster, persecution, or financial hardship:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That all who have died and those who will return to God during this Lenten season may experience the eternal life of the victorious Christ:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Hear the prayers we offer to you, O Lord. During these holy days of Lent, may we dedicate ourselves to the work of making these prayers a reality. We ask these things of you in the name of Jesus, Our Savior.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen