



# The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

Discovering What Is Good and Right and True Baptized, Tempted, Forgiven

## As We Gather

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This forty-day season of Lent is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time when we recall Jesus' forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Throughout these forty days, remember where we are going. We are headed toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. We are headed toward Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil.

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

- P** It was in this triune name of God that we were baptized—  
**C** **the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**  
**P** As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember our Baptism.  
**C** **We remember we were washed and forgiven.**  
**P** We remember we were made members of God's family.  
**C** **We remember we were united with Jesus.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Though we are baptized and united with Jesus, we often act as if we were separated from Jesus. There are times when we fall prey to Satan and his temptations. There are times when sin reigns within us. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in repentance, asking for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** **we have ignored Your help in resisting Satan and His temptations. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Yet our entire lives are lives of repentance. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and lead us in righteousness, on account of Jesus. Amen.**  
**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to endure temptation, suffering, and death for us and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen. We are forgiven. We are baptized into Christ.**

## Introit

*Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16*

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.  
With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.  
Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—  
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.  
With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9–15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Creed

Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, You are our sword and shield against the attacks of Satan. As we journey through this Lenten season, protect us from the assaults of the devil, remind us of our Baptism, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Thank You for the many blessings You have poured into our lives. Help us to accept what You give and ask for what we need. Protect us from a life of perpetual dissatisfaction and lead us toward a life of gratitude.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, You sent Jesus into our world to bear our temptations and share in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially* . . .]. Point them to the hope of resurrection and eternal life with You.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, we pray for all those who are not yet baptized into Christ, that the Spirit would lead them toward the promises of Baptism and the family of the church.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, we pray for our nation and its leaders. For President Biden and Vice President Harris and their staffs, for Congress and all lawmakers, for the Supreme Court and all judges. We pray that You, Lord, would make Your ways and paths known to them, that You would lead them in the truth and teach them.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering... Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your will.  
For a mighty fortress is our God,  
**C** a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Offering

## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Prayer

- P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through your Word of truth and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Acknowledgments

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