



Praying at Home this Sunday

The First Sunday of Lent – February 21, 2021

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. + **Amen.**

(All briefly call to mind their sins, praising God for his mercy.)

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)

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

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.

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray: (Pause)

Gracious and merciful God,
you look with love upon a sinful people
and desire only their return to you.

We beg of you the grace to live this holy season,
to persevere in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

By the discipline of Lent
purify our hearts of all pretension,
bring us back to you,
and make the whole Church ready
to celebrate the mysteries of Easter.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Genesis (Gn 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. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 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.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter (1 Pt 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. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Verse before the Gospel:

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 (Mk 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. **R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Discussion Questions:

1. (Genesis) What role do you see creation playing in our relationship with God?
2. (Mark) Where do you find solitude and quiet to be with God?

Sample Intercessions:

1. For the Church, may we all resist every temptation of power and gratification in favor of the cross of Christ: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For leaders of nations, together may they commit themselves to the preservation of the environment: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For victims of violent crime and for their assailants, may the grace of God bring about repentance, reconciliation, and peace: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For those who have died, welcome them into your eternal kingdom with joy: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For our community, as we journey toward Easter and the renewal of our baptismal profession of faith, may we always strive to live as children of the light: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught:

**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.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

**My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if you are already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer:

God of creation,
you are the source of salvation
and the font of living water that calls us to new life.
Hear our prayers that in this season of Lent
we may be purified,
and brought closer to you in our acts of prayer,
fasting, and almsgiving.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sign of the Cross +