

The First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Words of Welcome

Silence

An Invitation to a Holy Lent

Officiant

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.

This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now confess our sins to God, our maker and redeemer.

A Litany of Penitence

Officiant Most holy and merciful God:

People **We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and
deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

The Officiant continues

We confess to you, Lord, that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

We confess to you, Lord.

We have turned away from to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

We confess to you, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people. Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

We confess to you, Lord.

Our false judgments and uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us; our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution, saying

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Trisagion

Hymnal #S-102

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the

clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

I Peter 3:16-22

It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil,

if God’s will so ordains it.

For Christ also suffered, once and for all,

A just man on behalf of the unjust,

So that he might lead you to God,

Being put to death in the flesh and yet being made alive in spirit.

Whereby he also journeyed and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

who in former times did not obey,

While God’s kindness bided its time,

In the days of Noah when the ark was being built,

By which a few - that is, eight souls - were brought safe through the water,

Which also prefigures the baptism that now saves you -

Which is not a removal of the filth of the flesh,

But rather the commitment of a good conscience to God,

Through the resurrection of Jesus the Anointed,

Who is at God’s right hand, having journeyed into heaven,

Where angels, Authorities, and Powers

Have been made subject to him.

The Second Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Reader A reading from the gospel of Mark.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; change your hearts and have faith in the good tidings.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Miranda Hassett

Office Hymn: "The glory of these forty days"

Hymnal #143, verses 1, 4, 5

**I The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise,
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**4 Then grant us, Lord, like him to be
Full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
Our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.**

**5 O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
To thee be every prayer addressed,
Who art in threefold Name adored,
From age to age the only Lord.**

The Prayers

Celebrant We now enter a time of prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Send prayer requests to to prayers@stdunstans.com.

Officiant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in your heart as well.
Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.
The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all those in authority. In this season, we pray especially for all newly-elected public officials, for those working to alleviate the pandemic, for all those working for justice and equity, and for those you now name.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for our local communities. We pray for all essential workers and healthcare workers. This week I invite your prayers for , and those whom you now name.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list:

You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn. We hold before you all those who have lost their lives to the pandemic, and all the bereaved.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in your great mercy, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Song at the End of the Prayers

Composed by the St. Dunstan's Young Musicians

**Holy God, hear our prayer;
Holy God, hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you!
All **And also with you!**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Blessing

Celebrant Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the holy and undivided Trinity, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen!**

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord,
People **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Hymn: "Now Quit Your Care"

Hymnal #145

**1. Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry:
For schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.
Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;
God brings new beauty nigh;
Reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.
Reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.**

**2. To bow the head in sackcloth and in ashes,
Or rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal;
But to be led to where God's glory flashes,
His beauty to come near.
Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear.
Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear.**

**3. For is not this the fast that I have chosen?
(The prophet spoke) To shatter every yoke,
Of wickedness the grievous bands to loosen,
Oppression put to flight,
To fight, to fight, to fight, till every wrong's set right.
To fight, to fight, to fight, till every wrong's set right.**

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**4. For righteousness and peace shall show their faces
To those who feed the hungry in their need,
And wrongs redress, who build the old waste places,
And in the darkness shine.
Divine, divine, divine, it is when all combine!
Divine, divine, divine, it is when all combine!**

**5. Then shall your light break forth as doth the morning;
Your health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring
God's glory bright, your way through life adorning;
and love shall be the prize.
Arise, arise, arise! and make a paradise!
Arise, arise, arise! and make a paradise!**