

First Sunday of Lent
St Stephen Deacon & Martyr Parish
February 21, 2021

Entrance Hymn:

“Led by the Spirit”

Led by the Spirit of our God,
we go to fast and pray
With Christ into the wilderness;
we join His paschal way.
"Rend not your garments, rend your hearts.
Turn back your lives to me."
Thus says our kind and gracious God,
whose reign is liberty.

Led by the Spirit,
we confront temptation face to face,
And know full well we must
rely on God's redeeming grace.
On bread alone we cannot live,
but nourished by the Word.
We seek the will of God to do:
this is our drink and food.

Reading I

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.”

Responsorial Psalm

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.

Reading II

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.

Verse Before the Gospel

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

Gospel

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.”

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For Pope Francis, bishops, and pastors, that through their words and actions they may proclaim the gospel and lead us in repentance during this holy season of Lent, let us pray to the Lord.

That God’s life-affirming covenant with humanity, all living creatures, and this whole earth might inspire a renewed respect for life in all its forms, let us pray to the Lord.

For victims of floods and other natural disasters, that leaders may treat them with care and compassion as they mitigate and repair the devastation around them, let us pray to the Lord.

For those preparing for baptism this Easter that they might find support and encouragement from their baptized family, friends, and neighbors as they make their journey to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

For all of us, that these forty days we spend in the Lenten desert might strengthen us as we proclaim the gospel and build the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are ill with the coronavirus: that God’s healing love will touch them, relieve their suffering, and restore them to health, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who work to provide essential services during this pandemic, that they may find the strength and energy to continue the work they are doing and they be kept safe in all that they do for those in their care, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who have died, especially Amelia Cymerman, Kenneth Gingrac, Joseph Vaccarello, and James Kowal, and for those who have died from the Corona Virus pandemic, that we may know their presence eternally in the communion of saints, let us pray to the Lord.

For Theresa Manikowski, Kazimierz Danowski, Antoni Dobrycki, Dariusz Dobrycki, Hugh Twomey, Rutka Family, Alvin Scislowicz, Fr. Waldyslaw, Byron Grober, and the parishioners of St. Stephen’s, for whom this Mass is being offered, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers in our parish intention book, for the prayer requests that have been sent in and for all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts (PAUSE)..., let us pray to the Lord

Preparation of the Gifts

“You Have Called Us”

You have called us by our name, we belong to you.
You have called us by our name and we are yours.
You have called us by our name, we belong to you.
You have called us by our name and we are yours.
You have chosen us to be members of your family.
In your love you have created us to live in unity.

You have called us by our name, we belong to you.
You have called us by our name and we are yours.
You will lead us to your light,
Walk before us through the night.
You will guide us on our journey.
You will keep our vision bright.

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus. Dóminus Deus Sábaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua.
Hosána in excélsis. Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Hosána in excélsis.*

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem

Communion

“I Am the Bread of Life”

I am the bread of Life, he who comes to me shall not hunger;
He who believes in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father draw him.
And I will raise him up,
And I will raise him up,
And I will raise him up on the last day.

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world
And he who eats of this bread
He shall live forever, he shall live forever.
And I will raise him up,
And I will raise him up,
And I will raise him up on the last day.

Recessional

Our Mass has now ended. Today as we continue our journey through the season of Lent we exit in silence to remind us of the solemnity of this season of prayer, fasting, and returning to the Lord.