

Year B; First Sunday of Lent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for February 18, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:9-15

OPENING PRAYER (*from Psalm 25*)

God of all that is, we come this day to worship you. To you, we lift up our souls. You are good and upright; you instruct sinners in the way. You lead the humble in what is right and teach the humble your way. All of your paths are steadfast and faithfulness for those who keep the covenant with you and keep your teachings. We place our trust in you, O God; do not let us be shamed. Do not let our enemies triumph over us. Do not forget the mercy you have demonstrated and promised from ages past. As we come to worship you this day, do not turn your face from us, but educate us in your ways. Teach us your sacred paths — paths of truth and paths of salvation. We will wait for you all day long. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 25*)

One: To you, O LORD, we lift up our souls.

All: O our God, in you we trust; do not let us be put to shame; do not let our enemies exult over us.

One: Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths.

All: Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.

One: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

All: Do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember us, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

One: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

All: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

One: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from 1 Peter)*

Peter writes that after Jesus suffered for sins once and for all, he went and made a proclamation for the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey God. We are not let off the hook because we have been perfectly obedient; God has blessed us with a new covenant that includes forgiveness, but let us confess our sins and endeavor to sin no more.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3)*

O LORD, be mindful of your mercy, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from old. As for those spirits in prison to whom our Lord made a proclamation — as for those in the days of Noah, we have failed to keep your commandments and abide by your covenant. We have sinned by thought, by word, and by deed in doing what you and your spirit have commanded us not to do, and we have failed to do what you and your spirit have commanded us to do. Forgive our sins. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 Peter 3)*

God has surely offered us a new covenant. Christ suffered for sins once for all. The Righteous One suffered for the unrighteous ones, in order to bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. May we live alive in Christ Jesus and enjoy his benefits. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Genesis 9)*

Gracious God, scripture testifies and our lives display the failure of our ways — the sinfulness of humanity, our personal sin, and their consequences. You would have been justified in having given up on humanity, but, instead, you have offered us a path to forgiveness and reconciliation. Even in the time of Noah, you limited yourself promising to never destroy the earth by a flood again and placing your rainbow in the sky as a sign of your promise. In thankfulness for your incredible mercy, we offer these gifts in thankfulness in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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