

St Martin's Church, North Nibley
21st February 2021
A Service of the Word for the First Sunday of Lent

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you!

The priest introduces the service.

Hymn : Forty days and forty nights

1. Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.

2. Shall not we thy sorrows share
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

3. So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be.
round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

4. Keep, O keep us Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

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Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.
God's word is for all of us.
May it be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and place a candle lit near it.

News and Notices

Opening Prayer

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.

Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

The Collect, the prayer for the day:

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proclaiming the Word of the Lord

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

8 God said to Noah and his sons, **9** “I am now making my covenant with you and with your descendants, **10** and with all living beings—all birds and all animals—everything that came out of the boat with you. **11** With these words I make my covenant with you: I promise that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth. **12** As a sign of this everlasting covenant which I am making with you and with all living beings, **13** I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world. **14** Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, **15** I will remember my promise to you and to all the animals that a flood will never again destroy all living beings. **16** When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on earth. **17** That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings.”

Epistle

1 Peter 3:18-22

18 For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually, **19** and in his spiritual existence he went and preached to the imprisoned spirits. **20** These were the spirits of those who had not obeyed God when he waited patiently during the days that Noah was building his boat. The few people in the boat—eight in all—were saved by the water, **21** which was a symbol pointing to baptism, which now saves you. It is not the washing off of bodily dirt, but the promise made to God from a good conscience. It saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone to heaven and is at the right side of God, ruling over all angels and heavenly authorities and powers.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:9-15

Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

12 At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, **13** where he stayed forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him.

14 After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. **15** “The right time has come,” he said, “and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!

Sermon

Anthem God so loved the world by Sir John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son; that whoso believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. *(Public Domain)*

Creed *[Priest]* Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praying for Ourselves: for Forgiveness:

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praying for Others : our Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn Lead us heavenly Father, lead us

1. Lead us heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

2. Saviour breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3. Spirit of our God, descending
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

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Our service draws to a conclusion

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

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