

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – FEBRUARY 18, 2024

READINGS: GENESIS 9:8-17; PSALM 25:1-9; 1 PETER 3:18-22; MARK 1:9-15

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 149, Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church, Walking Once More the Pilgrim Way of Lent

THE GREAT LITANY (INSERT)

The musical score consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled "Cantor or Choir" and "All". The lyrics are "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The second staff is also labeled "Cantor or Choir" and "All". The lyrics are "Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son." The third staff is labeled "Cantor or Choir" and "All". The lyrics are "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The music is written in a simple, melodic style, with the lyrics placed below the notes.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin; Give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that we you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and or ever. Amen.

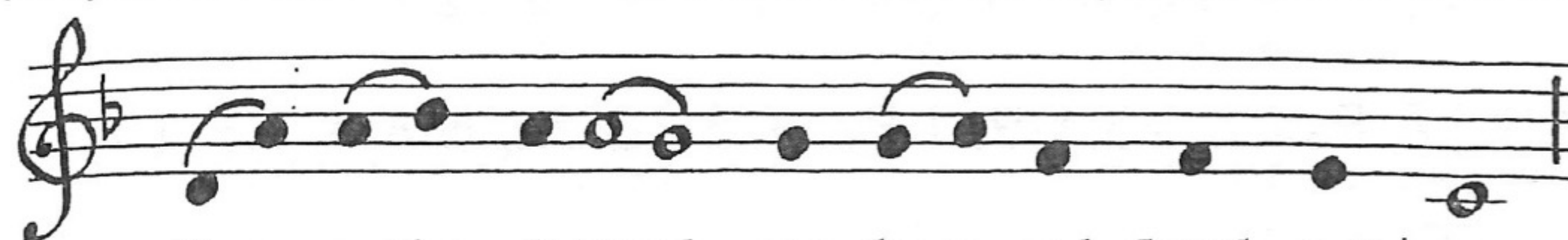
A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Our Hebrew scripture lesson tells of God's promise to Noah and to future generations never again to flood all the earth. God establishes this covenant with a sign – the rainbow that is seen in the storm clouds. This covenant is made with the whole creation.

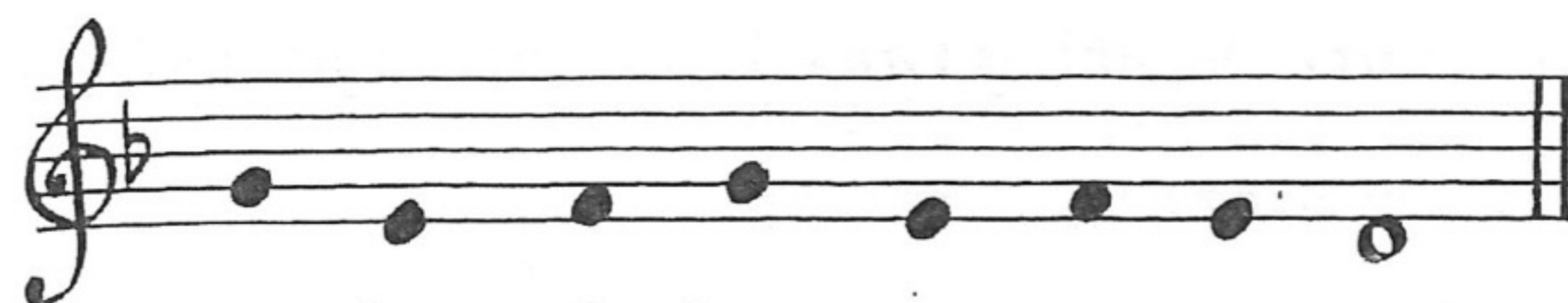
God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant 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. It will be a sign of the eternal covenant I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25 is a prayer for forgiveness and guidance and an expression of trust in the Lord.



Your paths, O Lord, are love and faith-ful-ness,



to those who keep your cov - e - nant.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. **R.** Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. **R.** Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. **R.**

A Reading from the First Epistle of Peter

This reading from the New Testament speaks of the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. In the story of Noah's salvation, a prefigurement of our own salvation through the water of baptism is perceived.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good 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 made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
all stand

Tract: Psalm 91, Tone II: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty. He shall say to the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust." He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence. He shall cover you with his pinions, and you shall find refuge under his wings; his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler. For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

What do we believe?

God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept, then all pray together:

Almighty God, have mercy upon us; Most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have not done; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The celebrant pronounces absolution, and all respond: Amen.

Holy Communion

Come to receive Holy Communion. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; the wine by drinking from the chalice or dipping the bread in the wine. Kindly let the celebrant know if you would prefer to drink instead and in addition to receiving Communion.

Hymn 147, Now Let Us All With One Accord, in Company with Ages Past

Turn to page 369 of the Prayer Book and participate in the Prayer of Consecration, responding as indicated.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

After the breaking of the bread:
May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people briefly greet those around them. Please refrain from shaking hands.

The celebrant says:
Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are they who are called to his supper.

And the people respond:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

Faithful God; In this holy bread you increase our faith and hope and love. Lead us in the path of Christ who is your Word of life. We ask this in his name. Amen.

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 120, vs. 1-5; The Sinless One To Jordan Came

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ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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