

## TODAY'S READINGS

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

#### THE COLLECT

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.

#### FIRST READING

##### Genesis 9.8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.' <sup>12</sup> 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: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.'

#### SECOND READING

##### 1 Peter 3.18-22

For 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, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> 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 people, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> 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, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

#### THE GOSPEL

##### Luke 13.31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' <sup>32</sup> He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem. <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How

often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

#### PSALM 119. 17-32

<sup>17</sup> Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word. <sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. <sup>19</sup> I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me. <sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times. <sup>21</sup> You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments; <sup>22</sup> take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept your decrees. <sup>23</sup> Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. <sup>24</sup> Your decrees are my delight, they are my counsellors. <sup>25</sup> My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your word. <sup>26</sup>

When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes. <sup>27</sup> Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works. <sup>28</sup> My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. <sup>29</sup> Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me your law. <sup>30</sup> I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me. <sup>31</sup> I cling to your decrees, O LORD; let me not be put to shame. <sup>32</sup> I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding.

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.