

## Sunday, February 21, 2021 – First Sunday in Lent

### Genesis 9:8-17 - The Rainbow as a Sign of God's Covenant

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you."

*Covenant vs. contract*

*Promise to Adam and Eve – Genesis 3: 15 – "He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."*

*Seeking – covering – substitute – victory*

*Covenant with Noah*

*Covenant with Abraham – Genesis 12: 2 – "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."*

*Covenant with Moses – Exodus 12: 13 – "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."*

*Covenant with David – 2 Samuel 7: 16 – "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever."*

*A New Covenant – Jeremiah 31: 31-34 – "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."*

11 "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."

12 "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."

*How it goes for humans also affects animals*

*Genesis 3: 17-18 – "Cursed is the ground because of you; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth."*

*Romans 8: 19-21 – Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Creation will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

16 "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."

*Two answers to the question – What is a rainbow?*

### Psalm 25: 1-10 - Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

*Which of God's ways do you especially want to learn and know?*

5 Lead me in your truth.

*Where are you – where are you not – following in God's truth?*

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgression; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your all goodness' sake, O Lord!

*We all have things from our past – including our youth – that we want to forget and that we would be very happy if God did not remember.*

## **1 Peter 3:18-22 -Saved Through Water**

18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all.

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey.

*Two possible interpretations of Jesus' making proclamation to the spirits in prison.*

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. 21 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,

*Baptism as sacrament vs. baptism as ordinance*

22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV) Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness**

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

*Mark 4: 35 – When evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.”*

*Mark 6: 45 – Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side.*

13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan.

*Mark does not contain the details of the temptation, as Matthew and Luke do.*

And he was with the wild beasts.

*Are the wild beasts physical or spiritual?*

*1 Corinthians 15: 32 – If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it?*

*Romans 5: 17 – If, because of one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*

And the angels waited on him.