

## **WELCOME: (COMMENTATOR)**

Good morning.

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that we are one table of believers. We trust that the Holy Spirit has never been and will never be restrained by time or space or distance! So we gather as one people, as one Body, rooted in Christ, and rooted in God's love, together.

Mark's account of Jesus' 40-day desert trial is brief and matter-of-fact compared with those of Matthew and Luke. The words 'quarantine' (from the Latin for 40) and 'testing' have become part of our everyday vocabulary, but their original Gospel use is quite different.

Jesus' time in the wilderness was Spirit-driven, not imposed by civic authority. His testing was not for a dangerous virus, but for faithfulness to his God-given mission.

The season of Lent returns us to these ancient meanings. The fruit it will bear in our personal and shared lives depends on our letting the Spirit lead us to a space where the truth of our relationship with God, others and creation can be laid bare. Let's remember this promise as we open our prayer in song.

**FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)**

**Genesis 9:8-15**

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his family:

"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you  
and your descendants after you  
and with every living creature that was with you:  
all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals  
that were with you and came out of the ark.

I will establish my covenant with you,  
that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed  
by the waters of a flood;  
there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth."

God added:

"This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,  
of the covenant between me and you  
and every living creature with you:  
I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign  
of the covenant between me and the earth.

When I bring clouds over the earth,  
and the bow appears in the clouds,  
I will recall the covenant I have made  
between me and you and all living beings,  
so that the waters shall never again become a flood  
to destroy all mortal beings."

The Word of God.            R/. Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2)**

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

A reading from the first Letter of Peter.

Beloved:

Christ suffered for sins once,  
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,  
that he might lead you to God.

Put to death in the flesh,  
he was brought to life in the Spirit.

In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison,  
who had once been disobedient  
while God patiently waited in the days of Noah  
during the building of the ark,  
in which a few persons, eight in all,  
were saved through water.

This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.  
It is not a removal of dirt from the body  
but an appeal to God for a clear 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 subject to him.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Good News according to Mark.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
Tempted by Satan.  
He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
“This is the time of fulfillment.  
The reign of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the Good News.”

The Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ.  
R/. Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ!

## **COMMENTATOR**

Beloved community, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world.

For whom and for what would we like to pray today? You are invited to unmute your mike. We would very much like to pray with you. Our response is Healing God, hear our prayer.

*When community prayer has slowed or stopped:*

Merciful God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been saved from the bonds of sin and death. As we begin our Lenten journey, grant us the grace to walk as people of forgiveness and reconciliation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen**

## **Prayer After Communion**

God, as we take this journey that draws us ever closer to you  
Walk with us  
Sustain us,  
Nurture us.

God, as we go through the wilderness of Lent and of our lives,  
Send your manna to us,  
give us wisdom to turn from temptation  
And your grace to turn to.

God, as we walk through the pot holes of life,  
The valleys, the pits of life,  
Guide us with your hand  
Keep our feet steady,  
And our vision on you.

God, whether we choose to give up something for Lent  
Or do something positive,  
Let us not do it out of obligation  
Or the tyranny of oughtness,  
But out of love for you.

Keep us in your paths of love, mercy and grace.  
Lord help us to remember we are not alone  
but that we are walking together as travelers home to you.  
Amen