

## **Protestant – February 26, 2012**

### **Genesis 9:8-17**

Then 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." 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."

### **Psalm 25:1-10**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

### **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, 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.

### **Mark 1:9-15**

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."

**February 26, 2012**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

**First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15**

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**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25:4-9**

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.** Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD, thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way.

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

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.

**Gospel: Mark 1:12-15**

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 kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

**Prayerful thoughts from Rev. Jack Vessels, SJ, The Rio Grande El Paso Padre**

**Reflections for FEB 26, 8th of yr: Hos 2.16-17, 18.21-22; 2Cor. 3.1-6; MK 2.23--3.6**

**THUS SAYS THE LORD: I WILL ESPOUSE YOU TO ME FOREVER! I WILL ESPOUSE YOU IN RIGHT & JUSTICE, IN LOVE, MERCY, & FIDELITY, & YOU SHALL KNOW THE LORD.**

'No man pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins & both wine & skins will be lost. No, new wine is poured into new skins.'

**During the day:** The Good News is always good & it's always new; don't let routine disable your always being on watch for the new--the love of your divine Spouse is infinitely creative in expression.

**ABOUT PRAYER:** Prayer is the quest for mystery. Not knowing what to expect, it remains open to whatever the Loving Lord communicates. Trust is mutual, God's much greater than our own.



## 7 UPs Weekly Lesson – February 26, 2012

### “Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

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