

God's Word for this Week

Sunday 21st February 2021

The Collect for the First Sunday in Lent

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

One with Us

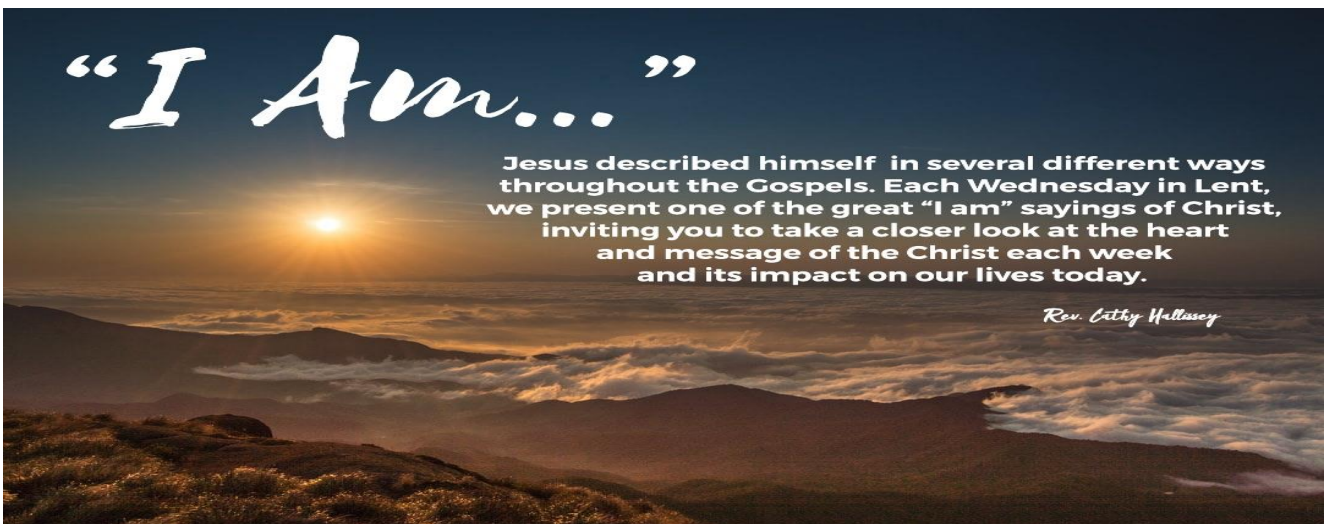
The Readings for this Sunday hold an underlying theme of being 'one with God'; from the promise made to Noah following the flood through to the unification of God's people with God, in the life, death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ and finally Jesus' Baptism and temptation – the former providing reassurance of God's commitment to Jesus and the latter confirming Jesus' dedication and commitment to God.

*This Lenten Season, we focus on the great 'I Am' sayings of Jesus and take a closer look at their meaning in our lives and in the world today. This Sunday's readings provide a good foundation for this Lenten Journey as we are reassured in three different scripture passages that God is **one with us**.*

"I Am..."

Jesus described himself in several different ways throughout the Gospels. Each Wednesday in Lent, we present one of the great "I am" sayings of Christ, inviting you to take a closer look at the heart and message of the Christ each week and its impact on our lives today.

Rev. Cathy Hallisey



The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 9: 8-17



covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

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, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹I 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.' ¹²God 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: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶When 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.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the

God our Father,

Throughout Scripture we see your constant presence and commitment to us. For Noah and his people this commitment was marked by a Rainbow. As we now witness first-hand the increasing light and warmth in the changing of the Seasons, which brings new life to the fore, may we too use the signs of nature around us to remind us of the provision of care and careful attention you give to our lives.

We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

The Epistle 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, 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 people, 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.*

Father, we thank you for your patience and your hand at work within us as you seek to draw us to yourself. Help us to trust in your steadfast guidance and the promise of new life which spans all eternity. Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Gospel Reading.

Mark 1: 9-15

*9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; * with you I am well pleased.'*

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,* ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;* repent, and believe in the good news.'**



Psalms 25

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.*
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the
treacherous be shamed and frustrated.*
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.*
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.*
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they
are from everlasting.*
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.*
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.*
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right
and teach his way to the lowly.*
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*