



Today's Readings

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

¹⁸Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ¹⁹The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ²⁰but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden,

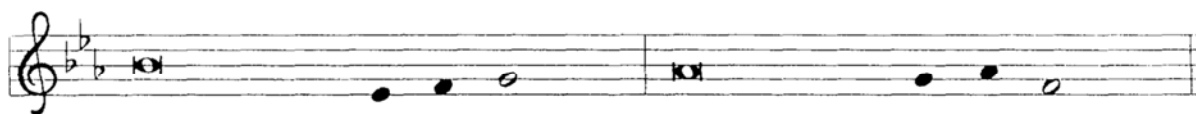
nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ²¹But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ²²for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ²³So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ²⁴Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32; tone 10

Psalm



Happy are they
whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

²Happy are they
to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!

³While I held my tongue,
my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me
¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up
as in the ¹ heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."

Then you forgave me
the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make
their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow,
they ¹ shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place;
you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me
with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you
in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule,
which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will ¹ not stay near you."

**¹⁰Great are the tribulations ¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those
who trust ¹ in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous,
and rejoice ¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹ true of heart.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment follow-

ing one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the 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.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Matthew 4:1-11

Gospel

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God.'

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning
you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you
up,
so that you will not dash your foot against
a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.