

## **February 21, 2021, First Sunday in Lent, lesson for 4th-6th grade**

As usual with our readings, read them slowly, listening for words or phrases that jump out at you. Read through a couple of times and see if different parts catch your attention each time, then think about the questions. I've included the Gospel as usual, but also the Old Testament reading for those who want to read a bit of Noah 😊

### **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."

- ◆ What happens to Jesus?
- ◆ What new beginning does Jesus experience?
- ◆ How is God present with Jesus?
- ◆ How is God present with us?

Activity: We've heard about Jesus's baptism a few times this year. This reading also includes what happens right after Jesus is baptized. Find Matthew 3:11-17, 4:1-12 and Luke 3:21-23, 4:1-13 and see how those readings compare to Mark's version. What details do they add? What details do they leave out?

### Genesis 9:8-17

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."

Discuss:

- ◆ What promise does God make to Noah?
- ◆ What sign of the promise does God give?
- ◆ How might life change for Noah because of God's promise?
- ◆ What new beginning can Noah and his family make?
- ◆ What new beginning do you wish the world could have, starting today?
- ◆ What new beginning do you wish you could have in your own life, starting today?

Activity: Genesis is the first book in the Bible. Can you find the **WHOLE** story of Noah's Ark?