

First Sunday in Lent

18 February 2024

Collect

God of the new and eternal covenant,
as the forty days of the great flood
swept away the world's corruption
and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life:
grant to us, who are washed clean and born again
in the saving flood of baptism, the wellspring of your grace,
that your gift of new life may flourish once again;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

2 The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

3 You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

4 No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah ; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married.

5 As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Psalm

Psalm 33:1-12

- 1** Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- 2** Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- 3** Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.
- 4** For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
- 5** The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- 6** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- 7** He gathers the waters of the sea into jars ; he puts the deep into storehouses.
- 8** Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.
- 9** For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
- 10** The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- 11** But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- 12** Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.

2nd Reading

Acts 2:42-47

- 42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.
- 44** All the believers were together and had everything in common.
- 45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.
- 46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Gospel

John 17:20-23

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.