

## The First Sunday in Lent

The Old Testament is written in the second chapter of Ecclesiasticus, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the bulletin insert.

*(Pause to allow parishioners time to find the reading.)*

My son, if you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation.

Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity.

Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient.

For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation.

Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not fail;

you who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

Consider the ancient generations and

see: who ever trusted in the Lord and was put to shame? Or who ever persevered in the fear of the Lord and was forsaken? Or who ever called upon him and was overlooked?

For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

Woe to timid hearts and to slack hands, and to the sinner who walks along two ways!

Woe to the faint heart, for it has no trust! Therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you who have lost your endurance! What will you do when the Lord punishes you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey his words, and those who love him will keep his ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek his approval, and those who love him will be filled with the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and will humble themselves before him.

Let us fall into the hands of the Lord,  
but not into the hands of men;

for as his majesty is,  
so also is his mercy.

*(Pause for a count of 5)*

This is the word of the Lord.

## The First Sunday in Lent

### Psalm 4

1 HEAR me when I call, O God of my righteousness: \* thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.

2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour, \* and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after falsehood?

3 Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly; \* when I call upon the Lord he will hear me.

4 Stand in awe, and sin not; \* commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.

5 Offer the sacrifice of righteousness, \* and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There be many that say, \* Who will show us any good?

7 Lord, lift thou up\* the light of thy countenance upon us.

8 Thou hast put gladness in my heart; \* yea, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

9 I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest; \* for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

*Glory be...*

## The First Sunday in Lent

The Epistle is written in the sixth chapter of the second epistle of St Paul to the Corinthians, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 126.

*(Pause to allow parishioners time to find the page.)*

WE then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain; (for he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation;) giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: but in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness,

by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

*(Pause for a count of 5)*  
This is the word of the Lord.