

First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

*Father of us all,
in this holy season
you call us to penance and self denial.
As we set out on our journey through Lent,
hear the prayer
we now make with trust in your closeness and mercy:*

Reader:

1. Saint Mark tells us that “*the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness.*” (Pause) For faith and courage in difficult times: faith to trust in the places *the Spirit is bringing us*, and courage to follow Jesus who shows us the *right path*. *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*
2. “*Jesus remained in the wilderness for forty days.*” (Pause) That the forty days of this Lent may be a time for us to remain in life’s wildernesses, and discover in them the consolation and comfort that only the Lord can bring. *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*
3. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the *closeness of the Kingdom*. (Pause) That the way we live—with compassion for all, and welcome for the vulnerable and the outsider may put flesh on the Kingdom. *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*
4. Jesus begins his ministry by calling to a *change of heart*. (Pause) That the Holy Spirit may melt the hardness of our hearts, deepen our *trust in the Good News*, and give us the *humility* to welcome God’s *mercy and love*. *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*
5. Saint Peter bears witness to *Christ* who *died ...to lead us to God*. (Pause) That our lives may bear witness to the living God—a God of *mercy and goodness*, the Father of *faithfulness and love*, of justice and truth. *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*
6. As the world struggles to bring the pandemic under control, we pray for solidarity, patience and strength: that we may all work together for the survival of the fragile and the wellbeing of those most at risk. *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*

Presider

7. On this Day of Resurrection, we remember those we carry in our hearts and all who have asked us to pray for them. Your Son was born into our life with its limits *and* its promise. Bring into your limitless life all who have gone through death with hope in you, especially *Lord, In Your Mercy: Hear Our Prayer.*

*Father, make us know your ways, teach us your paths.
By your Spirit, guide us in these Lenten days,
give us the freedom truly to seek you
and do your will.
Merciful Lord, Father of the Poor,
our Refuge and our Life for ever and ever. AMEN.*