

**Lord, enlighten us so that we may always act for the good of others!**

Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm 25:4-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

The Lord God speaks to Noah about the covenant established with him, his descendants, and with every living creature. Never again will there be this kind of complete destruction by water. The rainbow in the sky is to be a reminder of this covenant and a sign to all of us. The flood was a kind of war against sinful humanity and in those times the bow and arrow was a symbol of battle and now the rainbow, in the shape of a bow, was now put away signifying that the battle is over.

The psalmist seeks the Lord's ways, the right paths, guidance in the Lord's truths that bring the humble to justice. The Lord, full of compassion, love, kindness, and goodness, shows sinners the way.

Peter tells us that Christ suffered for sins once and now leads us to the Father. He suffered death in the flesh but was brought to life in the Spirit and now sits at God's right hand. In Noah's day only eight were saved in all from the waters, but now we are saved by the waters, the waters of Baptism.

The Spirit drove Jesus into the desert where he fasted and prayed for forty days and was tempted by Satan. Afterwards he came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel!"



The Father set forth the covenant,  
The Son fulfilled the promise;  
The Holy Spirit revitalizes us with baptism in the Spirit.



The rainbow after the rainstorm is indeed a beautiful and reassuring sight. It is like coming out of the darkness of sin into the brightness and beauty of God's Kingdom. It is by God's power that we are vindicated and guided into truth and goodness. All of this happens because the covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and we are saved even though we are sinners. We are reminded, however, that repentance is necessary!

### **Why Christ Willed to be Tempted!**

(St. Thomas Aquinas)

**First**, that he might strengthen us against temptations.

**Secondly**, on account of our safety Christ willed to be tempted; that we might be warned so that none, however holy, may think himself safe or free from temptations.

**Thirdly**, Christ wished to be tempted in order to give us an example, so that he might teach us how to overcome the temptations of the devil.

**Fourthly**, Christ wished to be tempted in order to fill us with confidence in his mercy.