

Resource Questions

First Sunday in Lent 18 February

Mark 1: 9-15

Jesus prepares for his ministry.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

- These 6 sentences are action packed.
How would you summarise the main points?
Why are they important?
- How would you describe Jesus’ mission? And what are the provisions God provides for Jesus’ ministry?
- Jesus is pronounced ‘God’s beloved son’ after his baptism. And is then ‘driven by the Spirit’ into the wilderness. What is your response to this sequence of events?
- Can you describe a wilderness time for you? and your sense of God’s provision in that time?
- “The *time* is fulfilled.” The Greek word is *kairos* – not clock or calendar time, rather the proper or opportune time.
How might this Lent offer *kairos* time for you? Especially as you ‘repent and believe’ anew.

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.