

## A WEEKLY WORD

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Lois Drover

READINGS: [Genesis 9:8-17](#) • [Psalm 25:1-10](#) • [1 Peter 3:18-22](#) • [Mark 1:9-15](#)

The Old Testament reading and the Gospel have 2 distinct topics to peruse. The number 40 and water.

The rains came down for 40 days and 40 nights and the ark held the remnant of all living creatures. They came through the waters of the flood and came out to a new clean, bright world. In a way it was like a baptism.

We cannot live without water. Yet Jesus, after his baptism in the River Jordan, was in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights, neither eating nor drinking. Who lives for 40 days without water? Only Someone who is in the power of the Holy Spirit. If I went for 40 days without sustenance the devil would not have to work hard to tempt me! Yet, Jesus, in His human weakness was able to draw on the Holy Spirit to not only keep him from temptation, but to have the mind to defeat the devil with the word of God! No wonder Scripture is called the Sword of the Spirit.

During His baptism, the Spirit descended on Jesus and strengthened Him for the ordeal ahead. That's what water does, strengthens us, nourishes us, and gives us life.

In John 4, Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well and their conversation starts when Jesus asks for a drink of water. In verses 13 and 14 he gives this life changing statement:

*“Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

We are now in the season of Lent – 40 days of preparing ourselves spiritually for the ordeal of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter. Let us prepare by drinking from the wellspring of eternal life and spending extra time in the Word of God, the fountain of our salvation.