

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

BAS Service of the Word

Surely It Is God Who Saves Me CP 361

*Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's healing spring;
in the day of your deliverance than the Lord, his mercies sing.*

*Make God's deeds known to the peoples: tell out his exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day
to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing.
Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past,
and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

May the Peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

I Am a child of God (More Voices)

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,

I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,

I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,

I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,

I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

creator and Healer,

you work your Sabbath will

in the chaos of our life:

teach us the insight that gives true judgement

and praises you wherever you are found,

making miracles from spit and mud;

through Jesus Christ, the Son of the earth. Amen.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you

come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.
- 3 You revive my soul *
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

May God be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'*

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.*

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Melissa our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. Please add your own petitions

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. Please add your own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our king;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Please add your own petitions

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;
you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.
Grant our requests as may be best for us.
This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Falter of Breath CP 489

*From the falter of breath, through the silence of death,
to the wonder that's breaking beyond,
God has woven a way, unapparent by day,
for all those of whom heaven is fond.*

*From frustration and pain, through hope hard to sustain,
to the wholeness here promised, there known,
Christ has gone where we fear and has vowed to be near
on the journey we make on our own.*

*From the dimming of light, through the darkness of night,
to the glory of goodness above,
God the Spirit is sent to ensure heaven's intent
is embraced and completed in love.*

*From today till we die, through all questioning why,
to the place from which time and tide flow,
angels tread on our dreams, and magnificent themes
of heaven's promised are echoed below.*

*please remember to mail in or drop off your offering at the church
or consider using the Pre-Authorized Debit system*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Glory to God whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Holy Spirit, Storm of Love CP 603

*Holy Spirit, storm of love, break our self-protective walls.
Bring us out and show us why, nakedly up on the cross,
open to the wind and sky, Jesus waits and Jesus calls.*

*Show us, in his tortured flesh, earth's Creator on display,
broken by affairs of state, drinking horror, pain and grief,
arching in the winds of hate, giving love and life away.*

*Show us how this dying love entered, bore, and understood
all our deep, unconscious drives, each exploiting, evil thread
woven through our nations' lives, all our life apart from God.*

*Thus convicted, claimed, and called, freed as Christ we freely choose,
washed in love, reborn, renamed, doing justice, knowing God,
may we witness unashamed, confident to give good news:*

*news that Jesus is alive, as his people of the Dove,
going out in praise and prayer, meet the evils of our time
and the demons of despair with forgiving, living love.*

[Readings for next Sunday - March 29 2020](#)

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.