

# Sunday, March 22, 2020

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

### BCP Service of the Word

Let us pray. *BCP p 622*

**Lord, teach us to pray.**

**Lord, keep our thoughts from wandering.**

**Lord, cleanse our hearts that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. *Ps 96:9*  
Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. *Isaiah 55:6*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**O Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned greatly against thee in thought,  
and word, and deed, and have done that which is wrong in thy sight.**

**Forgive us our sins, and give us grace always to resist temptation and to do thy holy will;  
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from  
all our Sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord, open thou our lips; **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us; **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

Praise ye the Lord; **The Lord's name be praised.**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> 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; / therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture, / and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall restore my soul, / and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; / for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 THOU shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; / thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely thy loving-kindness 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.'

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

### **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 be to thee, O Christ.

### **Sermon**

Please join me in reciting the Apostles' Creed. BCP p 624

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen**

The Lord be with you; **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen**

*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 your wherever you are found,

making miracles from spit and mud;

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

O Lord God, who hast bidden light to shine out of darkness, and who hast again wakened us to praise thee for thy goodness and to ask for thy grace: Accept now the offering of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be acceptable to thy holy will. Make us to live as children of the light, and heirs of thy everlasting kingdom. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies, thy whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, and all in our family, wherever they may be, who stand in need of thine aid. Pour down upon us all the riches of thy grace, so that, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, we may ever praise thy wonderful and holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen BCP p 729**

*please name those who are in need of prayer*

Almighty God and heavenly Father, who hast in wisdom seen fit to withhold from us at this time thine accustomed bounty; We most humbly praise thee for still bestowing upon us far more than we deserve. Make us truly thankful for our many blessings; increase in us more and more a lively faith and love, and a humble submission to thy blessed will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen BCP p 619**

O Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen BCP p 731**

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

Let us pray.

**Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down thy heavenly blessing upon thy Church in this Parish, that all its members may dwell together in unity and love. Keep far from us all self-will and discord. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness, and enable them faithfully to dispense thy holy Word and Sacraments, to bring again the outcasts, and to seek the lost. Grant that we may so receive their ministrations, and use thy means of grace, that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the advancement of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen BCP p 736**

O God, Most High and Holy, Three in One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: We offer to thee this day Ourselves, our souls and bodies, To be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; To whom be all praise and glory. Amen BCP p 729

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen**

**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.