

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

## The Acclamation

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* His mercy endures forever.

## The Collect for Purity

*The Celebrant prays*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Summary of the Law

*The Celebrant then reads the Summary of the Law.*

Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

*(Matthew 22:37-40)*

## Kyrie

*The Celebrant and People may sing or pray together once or three times*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the People*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And with your spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

### **A Lesson from the first book of the prophet Samuel**

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare 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?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated 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 before him.” 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 sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And 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.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent and brought him in. Now

he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

**Our Psalm this morning is number 23, which we will read responsively by whole verse.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

### **A Lesson from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that

is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*(Ephesians 5:1-14)*

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and

said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind...

And 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, "Why, this is an amazing 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 if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

*(John 9:1-13, 28-41)*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

## **Nicene Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

*Celebrant and People*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever-living God, in your holy Word you have taught us to offer prayers and requests, and to give thanks for all whom you have made. We appeal to your mercy, Gracious Lord, that you might hear our prayer.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* hear our prayer.

Inspire your universal Church by your Spirit, granting that all who confess your holy Name may agree in the truth of your holy Word and live in unity and godly love.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* hear our prayer.

Give grace, heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and especially to your servants Foley, our Archbishop, Eric our Bishop, and Ryan our Priest, that by their life and teaching, they may proclaim your true and life-giving Word, and rightly administer your holy Sacraments.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* hear our prayer.

Help us to fulfill your great commission; making disciples of all nations; teaching them to obey all that you have commanded.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* hear our prayer.

We ask you to rule the hearts of all who govern us, especially Donald, our President, Gavin our Governor, and Mike our Mayor. May they administer justice, govern wisely, and strive for the welfare and peace of the whole world.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* hear our prayer.

Grant your heavenly grace to all people, especially these gathered here, that with meek and reverent hearts, we may hear and trust your holy Word, devoting our lives to your righteous service.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* hear our prayer.

We humbly ask you, gracious Lord, to comfort and strengthen all those who, in this earthly life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* hear our prayer.

*Reader* I invite you to add your own requests at this time.

We bless your holy Name for all your servants who departed this life in your faith and fear, praying you would grant us grace to follow their good examples, that with them we might partake in your heavenly kingdom.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* hear our prayer.

*The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer*

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **The Confession and Absolution of Sin**

*The Deacon or other person appointed says the following*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

*The Deacon and People kneel as able and pray*

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 neighbors 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.

*The Bishop or Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And with your spirit.

## **The Offertory**

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the provided sentences of Scripture.*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

*The Celebrant may pray the following prayer*

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you. (1 Chronicles 29:11, 14)

## **The Sursum Corda**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And with your spirit.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People*                We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*                It is just and right so to do.

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## **The Sanctus**

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

## **The Prayer of Consecration**

*The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He offered himself and made, once for all time, a perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He instituted this remembrance of his passion and death, which he commanded us to continue until he comes again. So now, Father, we ask you to bless and sanctify, with your Word and Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine that we may partake of his most blessed Body and Blood.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord and heavenly Father, with these holy gifts we celebrate the memorial instituted by your beloved Son, remembering his passion and death, his resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again. Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his Blood, we and your whole Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion, making us one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And here we offer to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*The Celebrant then says*

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

*Celebrant and People together pray*

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 those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Fraction**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

## **The Prayer of Humble Access**

*Celebrant and People together*

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your abundant and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your  
table.

But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his  
blood,

that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

## **The Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
*have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
*have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
*grant us your peace.*

## **The Ministration of Communion**

*Facing the People, the Celebrant may say the following invitation*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

*(John 1:29, Revelation 19:9)*

*The Bread and Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Heavenly Father,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus  
Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have  
given us to do,

to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The People respond*

Thanks be to God.

Next Week's Readings:

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezek 37:1-14 Ps 130 Rom 6:15-23 Jn 11:(1-17)18-44