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**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Daily Morning Prayer**  
Sunday, March 22, 2020

*The Officiant says*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

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 Priest alone stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

*All stand*

*Officiant*        O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.  
*People*            And your glory all the day long.

*Officiant and People*

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore God.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
    let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving \*  
    and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.  
For you are a great God, \*  
    you are great above all gods.  
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
    and the heights of the hills are yours also.  
The sea is yours, for you made it, \*  
    and your hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For you are our God,  
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \*  
    Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>O GOD, you are my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>You make me lie down in green pastures \*  
and lead me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You revive my soul \*  
and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of GOD forever.

*At the end of the Psalm is said*

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

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.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

## **FIRST CANTICLE**

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

*Ecce, Deus*

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in God and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and God will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's Name;

Make God's deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that God's Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

*At the end of the Psalm is said*

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

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.”

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

## **SECOND CANTICLE**

Canticle D (EOW): A Song of the Wilderness  
*Isaiah 35:1-7, 10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, \*  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
It shall blossom abundantly, \*  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, “Be strong, do not fear! \*  
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you.”  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*

and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.  
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, \*  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness \*  
and streams in the desert;  
The burning sand shall become a pool \*  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.  
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from John.

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then 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. 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 worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment 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.”

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*Officiant and People together, all standing.*

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

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

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

Who suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

Who descended to the dead.

On the third day who rose again.

Who ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Who 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.

## **The Prayers**

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          And also with you.

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Officiant and People*

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.

## SUFFRAGES

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

*People* Govern and uphold them, now and always.

*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;

*People* We praise your Name for ever.

*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;

*People* Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;

*People* For we put our trust in you.

*Officiant* In you, Lord, is our hope;

*People* And we shall never hope in vain.

## FIRST COLLECT

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. *Amen.*

I ask your prayers for those in our hearts, especially Connie, Jamie and Kobe, Hayden, Dick, Pat G., Pat S., Amy, Paige, Nancy, Bailey, Norma, Byron, Sharon, Joey, Helen, Jim, Elaine, Danielle, Susan, Devon, Bill, Harold, Heather, Amelia, Melissa, David, Karen, Theresa, Ellie, Tom, Maggie, Sandra, Logan, Jean, Laurel, Heidi, Mark, and Abby. Are there any others who need our prayers?

I ask your prayers for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Larry Sheldon and Les Neisemier, for all the departed, and their families.

God of Healing and Hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best, and not the worst, in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on one another, and of the strength that comes from being one body in you. Through Christ, our wounded healer, AMEN.

*A prayer from Rev Sam Wells, St Martins in the Field, London*

O most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee to you for succor. Deliver us, we beseech you, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*1928 Book of Common Prayer*

### *Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Giver of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you

in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*  
*2 Corinthians 13:14*