

# Morning Prayer

March 22, 2020

## The Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Prelude

*Jesu, du bist allzu schöne*

Georg Böhm

### Welcome

### Prayer for an Online Gathering

*Officiant*

Almighty God of the cross and loving God of community, we are not in a church building today but Church is never cancelled. We are not wise, and not very often kind, but we are the Body of Christ in your suffering world. We know that our vocation is to be the light of Christ whose Body we are. Give us courage to be the Church and to keep our minds on loving the world which you have called good. Buildings crumble; the seasons pass; but your Church endures from generation to generation. Make this for us a feast day of your protection, your plenty, your purpose, and your peace. All this we ask, as we pray in silence, with all the saints and with one other. **Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

*The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture,*

Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. *Joel 2:13*

### Confession of Sin

**BCP 79**

*The Officiant says to the people* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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 Officiant says*

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

## **The Peace**

*Officiant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

**BCP 80**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* **Come let us adore him.**

**Venite** *Psalms 95:1-7*

**BCP 82**

*Officiant and People*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \***

**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \***

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, \***

**and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \***

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, \***

**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \***

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \***

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* **Come let us adore him.**

## **Psalm 23**

*(Spoken in Unison)*

**1 The Lord is my shepherd;**

**I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures**

**and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul**

**and guides me along right pathways for his 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 your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days**

**of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Lector* A reading from First 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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant and People*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he 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 his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he 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.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **The Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Lector* A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

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."

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 19, The Song of the Redeemed, *Magna et mirabilia***

*Officiant and People*

**O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.**

**Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \***

**O King of all the ages.**

**Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name? \***

**for you only are the Holy One.**

**All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41

*Lector* A reading from the Gospel of 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.”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

*The Rev. April Berends*

### The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

*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.  
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.**

Solo

*The Lord's my Shepherd*

*Brother James' Air*

### The Prayers

BCP 97

*The People stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Suffrages

BCP 98

*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.**

**The Collect of the Day**

**BCP 219**

*Officiant*

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.*

**A Collect for Guidance**

**BCP 100**

*Officiant*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Intercessor    Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be mindful of our neighbors' needs, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world, saying: Lord, in your mercy,  
**People**       **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    We pray for the holy catholic church and all who journey through this season of Lent, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People**       **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    We pray for all the peoples of the earth who share God's covenant of peace; may we fast from evil and grow hungry for justice. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People**       **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    We pray for your creation, that we may be good stewards of all you have made and all living creatures may find goodness on earth, our home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People**       **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    We pray for all who are oppressed, afflicted, or in need, that you may deliver them from their suffering. We pray especially for Nancy, David, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Marcia, Major, Peggy, Jean, William, Timothy, Donald, Robert, Chris, Cooper, Sally, Charles, Jonathan, Steven, John, Libby, Rebecca, Elaine, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Joyce, Jim, Mary Ruth, and Ann;

We pray for Wil, Jake, Jordan, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;

We pray for Erin, Kerry and Lizzy, who are with child.

We pray for all who are treating the sick, stocking shelves, transporting supplies, suffering from illness, and coping with new life-patterns in the midst of the current pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People**       **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for those who are dying and for those who have died, especially Will Benson, who died this week; bring them to the joy of your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing the truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us all. **Amen.**

*Silence may be kept*

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP 102**

*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.**

*Then may be said*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant*

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*

### **Postlude**

*If You but Trust in God to Guide You*

J. S. Bach

### **Worship Leaders:**

Officiant The Rev. David Burman

Reflection The Rev. April Berends

Lector Sean McEwen

Soloist Janelle Wagoner

Organist Patrick Rice

## Announcements

### Join Us for Online Worship at 9am Sundays

For the next few weeks, we'll be posting videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am on Sundays. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along with the Grace Notes Friday issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the 9am video stream, you can always go back and watch later.

### Community Care in Anxious Times

This coming week, we'll have our Grace check-in teams begin checking on households. Team leaders for each check-in group will be contacting you via phone, text and/ or email. Please take a moment to pick up or write back to let them know if you're okay and/or if you need help, pastorally or physically. The leaders of these groups will be in close communication with our priests and our network of volunteers. If you are a new member of Grace and we do not have your information in the directory, please fill out the New Member form [here](#) and let us know if you would like to be added to a check-in group.

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the parish office at (423)243-3250 and leave a message on the **main line**. We will be checking these messages regularly even if we aren't in the office.

### Inquirers' Class

If you've been participating in Inquirers' class, or would like to participate in future Inquirers' classes, and would like to be invited to future online-meetings of this class, please contact Sean McEwen at [seanjmcewen@gmail.com](mailto:seanjmcewen@gmail.com). Missed our last online gathering? You can view the recording of this past week's class [here](#). This week's class will meet via Zoom (an easy-to-use video conferencing app) at 10:00 am on Sunday. Click [here](#) to join this week's class on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am.