

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH – MARCH 22, 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE ACCLAMATION

CELEBRANT: Blessed by God: ^[+] the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
PEOPLE: **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

CELEBRANT: 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.
PEOPLE: **Amen.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

CELEBRANT: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
PEOPLE: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the 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)*

THE TRISAGION

CELEBRANT: Holy God;
Holy and Mighty;
Holy Immortal One:
PEOPLE: **Have mercy upon us.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

CELEBRANT: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

A time of silence is offered before the people join with the Celebrant in praying

PEOPLE: **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.**

CELEBRANT: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring to everlasting life.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

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A MORNING PRAYER

CELEBRANT: Together, let us lift our voices in prayer.

PEOPLE: **Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves this day. Let your presence be with us even to its close, that at night we may again give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

CELEBRANT: 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

READER: A reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

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 to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said

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to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER

READER: The psalter appointed for the fourth Sunday in Lent is from Psalm 23. Together, let us pray the Word of God.

PEOPLE: **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.**

EPISTLE

READER: A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians. (5:1-14)

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And with your spirit.**

CELEBRANT: The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: **Glory to you, LORD Christ.**

As he went 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?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

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But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

“Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

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

Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

CELEBRANT: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Praise to you, LORD Christ.**

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THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

CELEBRANT: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicen Creed.

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

CELEBRANT: Let us pray for the church and for the world, saying, “hear our prayer.”

After each petition is offered...

CELEBRANT: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LITANY FOR HEALING

CELEBRANT: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

PEOPLE: **We praise you and thank you, O LORD.**

CELEBRANT: God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

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PEOPLE: We praise you and thank you, O LORD.

CELEBRANT: God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

PEOPLE: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

CELEBRANT: Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

PEOPLE: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

CELEBRANT: Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit, those who are bereaved;

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Give peace and light to the faithful departed, (especially *N*), and grant that they may go from strength to strength in life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom.

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

PEOPLE: Hear us, O Lord of life.

CELEBRANT: Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

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CELEBRANT: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

PEOPLE: **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

CELEBRANT: You are the Lord who does wonders.

PEOPLE: **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

CELEBRANT: With you, O Lord, is the well of life.

PEOPLE: **And in your light, we see light**

CELEBRANT: Hear us, O Lord of life.

PEOPLE: **Heal us and make us whole.**

CELEBRANT: Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

THE BLESSINGS

CELEBRANT: ...And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

THE COMMISSIONING

CELEBRANT: Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**