

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

### Morning Prayer



## The Penitential Rite

### Organ Prelude

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

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*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 neighbours 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.**

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Morning Prayer

**Hymn** "Again We Keep This Solemn Fast", verses 1 & 5

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| <p>1 Again we keep this solemn fast<br/>A gift of faith from ages past,<br/>This Lent which bids us lovingly<br/>To faith and hope and charity.</p> | <p>5 We pray, O blessed Three in One,<br/>Our God while endless ages run,<br/>That this, our Lent of forty days,<br/>May bring us growth and give you praise.</p> |
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**Responses**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips,

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

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

*People* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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 Invitatory**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.

**Venite**

Psalm 95:1–7

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 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!

Creator of all, we give you thanks for a world full of wonder, but above all because you have called us into a holy fellowship with you and with each other. Guide us in the ways of this your new creation, rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Psalm 23 (words from Hymn 519)**

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want:  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
even for his own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

Glory to you, Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. In the waters of baptism you give us new birth, at your table you nourish us with heavenly food, and in your goodness and mercy, you guide us beyond the terrors of evil and death to your Father's home to dwell in eternal light. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

Holy Gospel: John 9:1–41  
*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> 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.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.”

<sup>18</sup> 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 <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> 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.” <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup> 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?” <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped him. <sup>39</sup> 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.” <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup> 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.

## Reflection

### The Apostles’ Creed

*People* **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.**

### Intercessions and Thanksgivings

**Hymn #397** "Praise the One Who Breaks", verse 1

- 1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light.  
Praise the one who frees the prisoners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the one who preached the gospel,  
healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Officiant* Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

*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 for ever. Amen.**

**Dismissal**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

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

*Officiant* May the God of peace enable us to do his will in every kind of goodness, working in us what pleases him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**