

# The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, March 22, 2020

## Prelude

**A Virtual Service of Morning Prayer, Rite II  
(adapted from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, pp. 75-102)**

*The Officiant says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People**      *God's mercy endures forever.*

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, kneeling or seated*

**God of all mercy,**

***we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.***

***We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.***

***We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.***

***Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.***

*The Officiant stands and says*

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

***Amen.***

*Confession of Sin and Absolution are from Enriching our Worship I, Supplemental Liturgical Materials prepared by The Standing Liturgical Commission 1998 © The Church Pension Fund.*

*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.***

### **The Invitatory Psalm**

*Jubilate*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### **A Reading from the First Book of the Prophet Samuel**

16:1-13

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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

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

**Psalm 23**

*Dominus regit me*

BCP, pg. 612-3

- 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.

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.

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul 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.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

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

**Canticle 9** The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus*

Hymnal, #678

- 1 Surely it is God who saves me;  
trusting him, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord defends and shields me  
and his saving help is near.  
So rejoice as you draw water  
from salvation’s living spring;  
in the day of your deliverance  
thank the Lord, his mercies sing.
- 2 Make his deeds known to the peoples;  
tell out his exalted Name.  
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;  
all his works his might proclaim.  
Zion, lift your voice in singing;  
for with you has come to dwell,  
in your very midst, the great and  
Holy One of Israel.

## A Reading from the Gospel of John

9:1-41

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.”

*After the Gospel the Officiant says*

                  Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches  
*People*           ***Thanks be to God.***

## **A Reflection**

## **A Musical Meditation**

## **The Apostles’ Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.***

## **The Prayers**

*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 by 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.***

**The Prayers of the People for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A**

God of all mercy, give to your people the same Spirit that rested upon your son Jesus, that we may have renewed strength and courage to meet the challenges of these days; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

We ask your blessing on all who govern and hold authority in our towns and cities, our counties, our state, our nation, and the world; that our leaders may wisely and compassionately use the resources at their disposal to ensure the health and well-being of all people; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

We pray for all who are sick and suffering, especially those suffering from the effects of COVID-19; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

Give us grace to do what we can to slow the spread of the pandemic; may we be willing to suspend our usual daily routines so that others may live; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

We pray for all those who work in health care, and for all first responders, that they may be protected from all harm and empowered to serve others with skill and dignity; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

Help us to reach out in new and creative ways to others in our parish and in our communities, especially those who are isolated, lonely, or in despair; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that they may be welcomed into your heavenly kingdom; Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer***

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the people and ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ironton, and Richard, their Vicar; we pray for Wayne, our bishop, and Deon, our bishop-elect; in our companion Diocese of Lui in South Sudan we pray for Wiroh Parish, and Matayo, their priest.

We pray for those on our prayer list: ***Karen, Judy, Joey, Sally, Jack, Don, Carl, Carole, Tori, Robert, Greg, Lisa, Bob, Cathrine, Daniel, Stephen, Leonard, Annette, Toni, and Jim.*** We give thanks for birthdays: Ken Dobert and Mark Schuster.

### **The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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 Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

### **A Prayer for Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. ***Amen.***

### ***The General Thanksgiving***

#### ***Officiant and People***

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and lovingkindness  
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.*

*Then may be said*

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

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

*The Officiant then concludes with the following*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20, 21*

**Postlude**