

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

9:15 am



An Order for Holy Eucharist **Trinity Church, Swarthmore**

From today's scriptures...

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.

~ John 9:1-3

Welcome! This service is meant to be especially suitable for children and their friends of any age. There is room in it for interaction and play, as well as unplanned sounds and events. Today, on Sundays in Lent, we are using **Confession Stones** instead of presenting each Prayer Card. Children may still make **Prayer Cards** and put them in the offering plate for presentation at the altar.

The form for worship for this season has been adapted from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (1979) and A New Zealand Prayer Book. Again, welcome!

This service **is not** livestreamed or recorded.

The Ministry of Word and Prayer

The People Gather

We greet one another informally, then warm up our voices and spirits by practicing one or two of the day's songs.

All standing, the presiding priest or minister then says:

Blessed be God, who forgives all our sins;
God's mercy endures forever.

Let us come before the Lord our God,
who lifts up the humble of heart.

Gathering Hymn

“Open my eyes, Lord”

Jesse Manibusan

**Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see your face
Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see**

**Open my ears, Lord
Help me to hear your voice
Open my ears, Lord
Help me to hear**

**Open my heart, Lord
Help me to love like you
Open my heart, Lord
Help me to love**

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Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ is the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The congregation sits.

The Proclamation

From the Hebrew Scriptures

1 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 the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Song "The King of love my shepherd is" *Hymnal 1982 #645*

1. **The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine for ever.**
2. **Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**
4. **In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

From the Gospels

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

The Word of God.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Homily

Children are invited forward for a children's homily. After the children's message, they are then asked to return to their seats. Any Prayer Cards may be put in the collection plate to be brought to the altar.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**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 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,**

**is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

Prayers of the People

The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
**For our families, friends, and neighbors,
and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Daniel our Bishop; Fr. Ted, our rector;
and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and Forgiveness

God has promised forgiveness to all who confess their own sins and forgive others.
That we may walk in newness of life, let us now confess our sins.

**Merciful God,
we have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The People follow in procession to the Baptismal font, where the stones are placed and washed. The Presider continues with words of absolution.

Sharing in Christ's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you;
And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another. Announcements may be offered.

During the following song, bread and wine for Holy Communion and financial gifts for the work of the church are brought to the altar. We encourage families to allow children to put in small coins as a lesson in giving to the church for our shared ministries.

Song of Offering

“I want to walk as a child of the light”

Hymnal 1982 #490

1. **I want to walk as a child of the light.**
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. **I want to see the brightness of God.**
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

The Ministry of the Table: Holy Communion

The offerings of the people are presented. Bread and wine for communion are placed on the table.

The Great Thanksgiving

(New Zealand Prayer Book, Alternative for Use with Children B, adapted)

The Lord is here.

God’s Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

God, you made us, the world and everything in it.

All the good we see comes from you.

You have always loved us,

but people have not always loved you.

You sent Jesus to show us how to live

and to bring us back to you again.

He died for us on the cross

so that through your Spirit

we can all be your people.

And so with thanks we praise you, singing,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We are here because on the night before he died,

Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

There he took some bread

and gave thanks to you, O God.

He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them.

“This is my body,” he said,

“Do this, and know that I am with you.”

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said

“This is my blood, which brings new life.

Do this, and know that I am with you.”

And so, remembering Jesus—who died, was raised to new life by you,

and is alive forever—

we are glad to share that life, live in him,

and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come in glory.

Send your Holy Spirit

so that this bread and wine

can be for us the body and blood of Jesus.

Through this food, give us strength

to live as your people.

Help us to care for your world

and for each other

in the way that Jesus showed us.

For until he comes again,

with all your people

in every time and every land

we worship you in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours,
Here and everywhere,
Now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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 yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The presiding priest and people then share in receiving Communion.

On receiving Communion:

All who are drawn to God in the way of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the consecrated host in the community of Trinity Church. To receive, please come up the center aisle and stretch out your hands, palms up. Eucharistic wine may be received directly from the common cup or, as a safety measure, from the tray with individual servings. Empty glasses are put on the empty trays at either side aisle. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request of the priest. To receive instead a spoken blessing, simply cross your arms in front of your chest.

Song during Communion

“Taste and See”

LEVAS #154

(Refrain:)

Taste and see.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O Taste and see. Taste and see

the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. **I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**His praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord;
for He has been so good to me.**

2. **Glorify the Lord with me.**

**Together let us all praise His name.
I called the Lord and He answered me;
from all my troubles He set me free.**

3. **Worship the Lord all you people.**

**You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that God is good;
in Him we need put all our trust.**

Prayer After Communion

The priest says

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.

**Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace
and opened the gate of glory.**

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.

**Keep us firm in the hope
you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

A blessing may be given. The service concludes with a song and dismissal.

Sending hymn

“Amazing grace”

Hymnal 1982 #671 (verses 1,2,5)

1. **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.**

2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!.**

5. **When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Let us go forth to share in the mercy of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*All are invited to join the various programs and discussions outlined in the announcements.
Coffee is available at the kitchen window in the Shero Room,
through the interior double doors of our worship space.*

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This morning:

Family of the Week

Altar Guild

Verger

Chalice-bearers

The Elliott Family

Suzanne West, Betsy Breakell, Barb Swartz Linda Howard and Angela Cimino

AnnMarie Stanton

Mary Thompson and Rich Englebach

The Rev. Joe German, preaching

The Rev. Dr. Edward (“Fr. Ted”) Thompson, presiding



Vestry Members and Officers

Rebecca Clemmer (Rector’s Warden)

Bill Scarborough (People’s Warden)

Jay Gillespie (Treasurer, non-voting)

Sharon Graham (Secretary) * Kristin Cardi

Mike Donoghue * Jan Dreachslin * Catherine Gardner * John

McCurry * Jim Meehan * Andy Millett

Suzanne West * Agnès Wozniak

Rector The Rev. Edward E. (“Ted”) Thompson, Ph.D.

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