

March 19, 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

A Service of Confirmation and Reception

Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter

Welcome! We're glad you're here. Parents: The nurseries for infants and toddlers are located on the lower level.

At the Procession

God of grace and God of glory

Standing



THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit; People: There is one hope in God's call to us; Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: One God and Father of all.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: 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*.

Please be seated for the lessons.

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Introduction to the Lesson

When Saul is rejected by God as king, Samuel is sent secretly by God to look for another king. The sons of Jesse pass in review, but from the background emerges David, an unlikely choice.

A reading from the First Book of 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

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 23

The Psalm will be said responsively by whole verse, alternating each verse with the Lector who reads first

The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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.

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.

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 Second Lesson

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Introduction to the Lesson

Followers of Christ are called to live a life in contrast to how they lived before they became Christians. They are to be imitators of Christ in a culture of immorality and impurity.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians:

For 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."

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Stand for the Gospel Hymn and the reading of the Gospel. Sing verses 1-2 before the gospel and verses 3-4 after the gospel.

Gospel Hymn

Amazing Grace



Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.)Reprint under OneLicense #A-730034

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Introduction to the Lesson

A man born blind has his sight restored by Jesus, the light of the world. Jesus then helps the man to see spiritually as well as physically.

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."

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 Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates:

Bishop: The Candidates will now be presented.

(Each person is presented individually by their sponsors.)

Presenter: *I present* these persons for Confirmation.

or

Presenter: I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate: *I do*.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior

and Lord.

(To the congregation)

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to

support these persons in their life in Christ?

Congregation: We will.

Bishop: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to

Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant:

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and

earth.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: 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.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,

in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall

into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of

God in Christ?

People: *I will, with God's help.*

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your

neighbor as yourself?

People: *I will, with God's help.*

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and

respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates:

Bishop: Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their

commitment to Christ.

Deacon: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says: Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he/she comes to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

For Reception

Bishop: N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. Amen.

The Reaffirmation of Vows as a Monastic Solitary

Bishop: The person to make reaffirmation of vows as a Monastic Solitary

will now be presented.

Priest: I present Jo Ann Rayfield to be received as a Monastic Solitary.

Bishop: Jo, what do you desire?

Jo: I desire to dedicate my whole life to God and God's people as a

solitary under vow to the Diocesan Bishop.

Bishop: Jo, will you renew your vows to live in simplicity of life, in

celibate chastity, and in religious obedience?

Jo: I will with God's help

Bishop: You, in this congregation here present, have heard Jo Ann

dedicate her life to God as a monastic solitary. Will you

uphold and strengthen her in the years ahead?

Congregation: We will, with God's help.

Bishop: Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Peace

Bishop: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greetings and Announcements

The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem

Offertory Hymn

Here I am, Lord



Text: Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte, b.1947
Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; arr. by Michael Pope, SJ, John Weissrock
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An Acclamation of Thanksgiving for God's Gifts

Celebrant: All things come from you O Lord People: *And of your own have we given you.*

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of

glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus:



Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *Amen*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Celebrant: This is the table not of the Church but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little. You who have been here often and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come because it is the Lord who invites you. It is the Lord's will that those who desire Jesus should meet him here at this table.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion: All are welcome at God's table. We are offering both bread and wine. If you would like to receive the wine by common cup, go to the right. If you would like to receive by intinction, go to the left.

Gluten Free Communion Bread: If you have a dietary restrictions and need gluten free communion bread, just ask the server for gluten free bread when you come to receive.

Prayer Team: If you would like a member of the Prayer Team to pray with you for any need in body, mind, or spirit, go to the back of the church after receiving communion and members of the Prayer Team will pray with you. The Congregation is invited to sing the following during communion.





The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

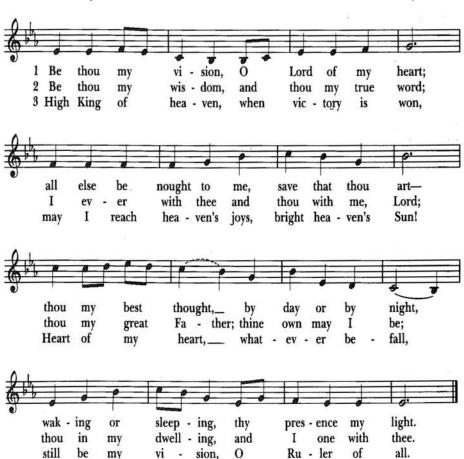
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing and the Dismissal

Celebrant: Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*

(The dismissal is said after the closing hymn. Children are invited to join the clergy at the front of the church to help with the dismissal.)

Priest: Let us bless the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God*.



The Mission of Holy Comforter
Love God, Love Others
Serve God, Serve Others

Welcome to Holy Comforter—We're Glad You're Here!

To our guests—we are so glad that you are here! Our first joy is to welcome our guests and newcomers. And our prayer is that we may become a spiritual home for you. An usher can assist you with any questions. Like to be on our mailing list? Sign our guest register.

Do you want to be part of Holy Comforter? Call the parish office (706-210-1133) and we'll be glad to help you. *Also, please make sure that we have your e-mail address to receive our weekly E-News.*

Bishop's Visitation

We welcome with joy our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue for his annual visitation. This morning we are celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and Reception.

Stay for Lunch!

Following the worship service, we are having a potluck celebration. All are welcome to join!

Lenten Speaker Series

Join us each Thursday in Lent for a light meal and speaker. We meet in the Parish Hall from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. This Thursday, Carleton Vaughn returns to conclude his discussion of the trial of Jesus from a lawyers perspective.

Our Lenten Speaker Series concludes on Thursday, March 30th. All are invited to watch and discuss the award winning Oscar nominated short film, *Stranger at the Gate*. We meet in the Parish Hall from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Sign up in the foyer to bring a dish.

The Rector's Forum

The Rector's Forum continues next Sunday, March 26.

Upcoming Rector's Forum: The Rector's Forum will be held in April on April 2, 16, 23, and 30. We will read and discuss *If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk: Finding a Faith that Makes us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz.

Kids Club 219

Join us in Kids Club on Sundays at 9:15am as we focus on the Lenten and Easter Season! We will learn about the importance of the Lenten season, leading up to Holy Week and Easter. We meet in the downstairs classroom.

Sunday Morning Lenten Discussion

Sunday mornings at 9:15am: Join us for a small group discussion of Kate Bowler's *Bless the Lent We Actually Have*. This is an excellent time to reflect on our 'imperfect' lives through prayer, devotion, and spiritual exercises. We meet in the downstairs classroom. Questions? Contact Laura Schmick at lcgarne@gmail.com.

Holy Week

April 2nd, Palm Sunday: Blessing of the Palms and Procession at 10:30am. Palm Sunday marks our entrance with Jesus into Jerusalem and Holy Week.

April 6th, Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm with the Holy Comforter Choir. This service includes the foot washing and stripping of the altar.

April 7th, Good Friday: We meet at noon for the Stations of the Cross in the Parish Hall.

<u>Easter</u>

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is offered Easter Sunday, April 9th. If you or your child wishes to be baptized, call the church office at 706-210-1133.

Two Services on Easter! Worship with us at either 8:30am or 10:30am. The choir will be at both services. In between we will have a light brunch so bring something to share. Ham and Mimosas provided by the church. The Easter egg hunt follows the 10:30 service.

The Book Club

The Book Club meets Wednesday, April 12th at 10am in the Parish Hall to discuss *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline. This novel tells the story of 3 women whose lives are bound together in 19th century Australia and the hardships they weather together as they fight for redemption and freedom in a new society. All are welcome.

Notes:

Prayers of the People

Persons remain on the list for two weeks; those with chronic needs continue to be prayed for by our Prayer Chain. You may add prayer requests at the lectern in the foyer.

For those in need of healing: Wendell Dodson, Louis Hernandez, Katie, Billy Carter, Linda Scales, Joe Bowden, and Bill Jackob

For those celebrating birthdays: Donnie Hixon, Valera Hudson, Linda Hoogland, and David Harbeson

For those celebrating anniversaries: Steve and Maria Crane, Keith and Emily Milburn

Thanksgiving for our partnership with Martinez Elementary School, The Claiborne, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Boy Scout Troop 10.

For those who are homebound: Loren Waldo

For the safety of all those who serve abroad.

For the departed: Mike Ricketson

Missions and Prayer

Prayer Shawl Ministries: Make them at home or come to church on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30am to make shawls which are given to anyone with a prayer need.

Food Bank: Please place non-perishable items in the red wagon by the front door. The food collected goes to Columbia County Cares. Our goal each month is to give away 500 pounds of food!

The Master's Table: They need *travel size* shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, white cotton socks for men/women etc. All items must be *new* and *unopened*. Also needed are plastic, not styro-foam take-out containers for food. Place items in the red bucket under the kitchen sink.

Serving Today

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue Preacher/Celebrant **Assisting Priest** The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer Deacon The Rev. John Warmer Lay Eucharistic Ministers Tab Carter and Jenny Quebedeaux Acolytes Ben Doughtie, Brandon Belair, Elise Cardinal Reader Carol Kane Altar Guild Karen Sheppard and Alison Moseley Altar Bread Sara Liebel

Prayer Team Robert Bargeron and Harriet Myers
Pre-Service Greeters Harriet Myers
Ushers Fred and Linda Hoogland
Vestry Person of the Day Pam Vanscoy

Staff

The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer, Priest in Charge, 803-319-5296 Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator Lara Fort, Financial Secretary Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

Vestry

Tab Carter, Sr. Warden, Pam Vanscoy, Jr. Warden (Class of 2024)
Jenny Quebedeaux, Barry Paschal (Class of 2025)
Heather Doughtie, Keith Milburn (Class of 2026)

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General Email: mailbox@holycomforterchurch.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 2pm

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