

# Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church

6320 Hanover Ave.  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703-451-1088  
www.saintchristophers.net



**Our Vision:**  
To Know Christ  
To Love Christ  
To Serve Christ in Others

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 22, 2020**

## **Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two**

### ***Opening hymn:***

#7 *Christ whose glory fills the skies*

### *Lent*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

#### **The *Officiant* says to the people**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

*Officiant* and People together, all-kneeling

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.

Priest alone

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

*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.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7 said together

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \* and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \* and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \* and kneel before the Lord our Maker. 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!

### **Psalm 23**

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.

## First Lesson

### Ephesians 5:8-14

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

## 16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

*Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 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."

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Answer Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

### The Apostles' Creed

#### **Officiant and People together,**

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.

### The Lord's Prayer.

#### **A litany of healing**

*The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany*

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

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

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

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

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

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

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

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

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

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

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;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

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

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

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

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

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

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

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

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders:

*You have declared your power among the peoples.*

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

*And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life:

*Heal us, and make us whole.*

*A period of silence follows.*

*The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with one of the following or some other suitable Collect.*

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. *Amen.*

#### *Additional collects*

The General Thanksgiving *Officiant and People*

#### *A General Thanksgiving*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.**

**Closing hymn**

#533 *How wondrous and great thy works*

#### **Search Committee Prayer**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish. Likewise, guide the heart of our future priest, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **This Week We Are Praying For:**

The Church: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Susan and Taylor, our Bishops. For Donna, our Guest Celebrant, Joe our Music Minister, for our Vestry, Nina, our Parish Administrator and for Lynn, our Pastoral Assistant this week.

Our Government: Donald our President, and Ralph our Governor.

#### **For those celebrating birthdays this month (but not read in church):**

Ruth York, Andrew Medding, Mary Andrew, Cathy Branch, Chas Henry, Debbie Brant, Kevin Frear, Ellie Hall, Henry Branch, Elizabeth Woodcock, Bronwyn Dunlap, Ruth Meagher, Addison Dunlap, Landon Ritchie, Joe Bush and Mikell von Kolntiz.

**The Sick, Suffering, and in Need** Virginia Clark, Ruth York, Elaine Sevy, Marion Evans, Ginny and Fred Berg, Marguerite Wagner, Ralph Tomita, Jim Foster, Priscilla Greene, Virginia Cole, Ted Woodcock, Elaine Apostles, John Wells, and L. B. Berg as well as those on our March Parish Family Prayer List (names not read in the service): The Newcomb, Andrew Clark, Eleanor Alleman, Chris Crockett, , Barbara Carballal, Jason, Faith, Jack, Anne Bustion, Jonah Havert, Sharon Wilson, Joe Hughes and Joan Snyder.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Book Discussion UPDATE:** The March discussion of *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett has been postponed until Tuesday, May 19th. For any questions, contact Christine Meloni or Janet Bush.

#### **Service Participants For Sunday, March 22, 2020**

Lectors: Chas Henry (L1), Gaye Evans (L2)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Meredith Maple (PB), Pam Branstetter (CB1), Chris Erbe (CB2)

Prayer Intercessor: Meredith Maple

## **This Weeks at St. Christopher's**

Monday, March 23

Tuesday, March 24

Wednesday, March 25

Thursday, March 26

Friday, March 27

5:00 p.m. S. Anonymous Meeting

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. St. Christopher's Virtual Church

**The Vestry of St. Christopher's:** Senior Warden, Bob Hall, Jr. Warden, Marifran Bustion, Register, Liz Zubritsky, Parish Life Team Lead, Cathy Branch, Education Team Lead, Timmie McArthur, Evangelism Team Lead, Brent Guernsey, Outreach Team Lead, Carroll Hill, Stewardship Team Lead, Deb Kim, Building Lead, John Olsen, Grounds Lead, Logan Foley and Worship, Bob Hall.

**The Staff of St. Christopher's** Nina Miller, Parish Administrator; Joe Bush, Bookkeeper; Joe Gabalski, Organist/Choir Director; Polly Colwell, Preschool Director