



## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent ❖ March 22, 2020

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Liturgy for Worship ❖ 10:00 a.m.\*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People** His mercy endures for ever.

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.**

### Old Testament Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

*Reader* A reading from the Letter 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* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 23** *Said responsively, by whole verse*

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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.**

### **The Gospel Reading John 9:1-41**

*Deacon*

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

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."

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

**The Homily**                      The Rev. Eleanor Wellford

**The Nicene Creed**

*Said by all, standing.*

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**We believe in one God,**  
    **the Father, the Almighty,**  
    **maker of heaven and earth,**  
    **of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**  
    **the only Son of God,**  
**eternally begotten of the Father,**  
    **God from God, Light from Light,**  
    **true God from true God,**  
    **begotten, not made,**  
    **of one Being with the Father.**  
    **Through him all things were made.**  
**For us and for our salvation**  
    **he came down from heaven:**  
    **by the power of the Holy Spirit**  
    **he became incarnate from the**  
    **Virgin Mary, and was made man.**  
    **For our sake he was crucified under**  
    **Pontius Pilate;**  
**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in**  
    **accordance with the Scriptures;**  
    **he ascended into heaven**  
    **and is seated at the right hand**  
    **of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory to judge the**  
    **living and the dead,**  
    **and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,**  
    **the giver of life, who proceeds**  
**from the Father and the Son.**  
    **With the Father and the Son he is**  
    **worshiped and glorified.**  
    **He has spoken through the Prophets.**  
    **We believe in one holy catholic and**  
    **apostolic Church.**  
**We acknowledge one baptism for the**  
    **forgiveness of sins.**  
    **We look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
    **and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**

*Leader*      In this holy season of Lent, we remember our mothers and fathers in the faith, the children of Israel who wandered in the wilderness; we are wandering too, trusting that we like them are your beloved children and with all our hearts say,  
*People*        **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**  
*Leader*      We hold before God those for whom life is very difficult right now:  
    *(Silence.)*  
*Leader*      We hold before God all those who are sick or suffering especially during this worldwide outbreak of illness, that each may know the comfort of your loving, healing Spirit.  
*People*        **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**  
*Leader*      We hold before God all doctors and nurses, nursing assistants and all care-givers, all public health officials and those whose wisdom is needed to guide us towards renewed health and life.  
*People*        **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**

*Leader* We hold before God all those who may be especially vulnerable and who may be lost or forgotten, that the Spirit of the Good Shepherd may be alive among your people and bring them home.

*People* **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**

*Leader* We hold before God all those who hold the public trust as our elected representative and leaders, that you would endue them with your wisdom and love, for the benefit of the whole human family and for your glory.

*People* **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**

*Leader* We hold before God this parish family and the mission of your Church throughout the world, that you would knit us together in the powerful bonds of your love that draw your Kingdom near.

*People* **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**

*Leader* We hold before God those who are disappointed in something for which they hoped for very much, and for those who are sad because someone they loved has died.

*People* **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**

*Leader* We hold before our loving God, our Shepherd who supplies our every need, our grateful hearts in thanksgiving for the unexpected joys of this life, for the gifts of human kindness we see every day, and for new life, especially the birth of McKenna Blake Starling, new baby daughter of Elizabeth and Jason Starling.

*People* **The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear.**

*Leader* O God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel and Leah, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, lead your people through this wilderness again, give us grace to know that you are our God and we are your people, and shine upon us the light of your countenance that we may be still and know that you are God. Amen.

*People* **Amen.**

### Confession of Sin

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*Leader* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

*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 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.**

*Celebrant* 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 Peace

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*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**



*Here is a collect that you may find speaks for your heart in this time of uncertainty, and is food for your soul during this season of Lent.*

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

*--The Book of Common Prayer, page 461*



### **The Parish Prayer List**

Lacy Slabaugh Abbott, Jane Anderson, Bill Ashey, Agnes Atwill, Maggie Bassett, Charles Bryan, Barbro Caperton, Elizabeth Cary, Bill Collins, Nick Costas, Kendall Cray, Elaine Crisskus and family, Ann Robertson Davis, Betty Dixon, Stacy Dove, Melissa Evans, Ralph Fisher, Kristine Fitzgerald, Jim Frye, Laura Gilliam, Gordon Graham, Howen Greeley, Frank Grier, Bettsy Heggie, Lolly Hetherington, Cindy and Dave Horowitz, Donna Marie Joy, Betty and Clyde Lamond, Terry Lardizabel, Ross Mackenzie, Katherine Mezger, George Moncure, Dover Moore, Harry Moore, Wende Patton, Alex Peavey, Randy Reynolds, Susan Reynolds, Elizabeth Romeo, Lori Rowland, Kelly Ryan, Shelby Slaughter, Bruce Spain, Josh Spain, John Stallings, Jackson Steele, Emma Grace Stiff, Otissay Thompson, Robin Underwood, Ruby Walton, Addie Waters, Judy Wei, Whitley, Sigrid Whittle, Trish and Gary Wilkins, Jack Williams, William Wilson, and Katherine Youell. **For all the blessings of this life**, especially the birth of McKenna Blake Starling, daughter of Elizabeth and Jason Starling. **For those expecting children. For those who have died**, especially remembering Rick Wheeler. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and The Most Rev. Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island. **For those serving in the military or diplomatic service**: Stuart Hughes, Jack James, Alec Mackenzie, Alex Newsome, Randy Reynolds III, C. Russell Timmons, and David M. Tonacci.