



St. Paul's Cathedral Burlington, Vermont

The Fourth Sunday in Lent ✕ March 22, 2020

*During this service, the people respond using words printed in **bold face**.*

A Penitential Rite

The Presider says,

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

The Deacon says,

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Stillness follows.

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.

The Presider offers absolution:

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. *A short period of stillness follows, and then the Presider says a Collect:*

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day:

Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity;
and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Word of God

We hear a reading from early Christian scripture:

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."
Ephesians 5:8-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God. *Stillness follows.*

As a meditation on the reading, the Cantor sings a selection from the Psalter:

Psalm 23

*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.*

We hear a reading from the Gospels:

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

As he walked along, Jesus 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."

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." *John 9:1-17, 24-41*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God. *Stillness follows.*

In a brief homily, the Presider breaks open the scripture.

After a period of stillness, a musical response follows:

Praeludium in C major BWV 846

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Prayers

A Litany of Healing

The Deacon says,

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

The people may offer names either silently or aloud.

The Deacon continues,

Holy God, source of health and salvation,

Hear and have mercy.

Holy and Mighty, wellspring of abundant life,

Hear and have mercy.

Holy Immortal One, protector of the faithful,

Hear and have mercy.

Holy Trinity, the source of all wholeness,

Hear and have mercy.

Blessed Jesus, your Holy Name is medicine for healing and a promise of eternal life,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, descendant of David, you healed all who came to you in faith,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, child of Mary, you embraced the world with your love,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, divine physician, you sent your disciples to preach the Gospel and heal in your name,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus our true mother, you feed us the milk of your compassion,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, Son of God, you take away our sin and make us whole,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, eternal Christ, your promised Spirit renews our hearts and minds,

Hear and have mercy.

Grant your grace to heal those who are sick,

we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Protect those who are vulnerable to the coronavirus,

we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Give courage and faith to all who are disabled through injury or illness,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Comfort, relieve, and heal all sick children,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Give courage to all who await surgery and to those who live with chronic illness,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Strengthen those who endure continual pain, and give them hope,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Grant the refreshment of peaceful sleep to all who suffer,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Befriend all who are anxious, lonely, despondent, or afraid,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Restore those with mental illness to clarity of mind and hopefulness of heart,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Give rest to the weary, and hold the dying in your loving arms,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Help us to cleanse our hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Give your wisdom and compassion to health care workers,
that they may minister to the sick and dying with knowledge, skill, and kindness,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Uphold those who keep watch with the sick,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Be present with all whose work puts them at risk of infection,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Guide those who search for the causes and cures of sickness and disease,
we pray to you, O God:

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Hear and have mercy.

The Presider concludes,

Compassionate God, you so loved the world that you sent us Jesus to bear our infirmities and afflictions: for the sake of your Christ who suffered and died for us, conquered death, and now reigns with you in glory, hear the cry of your people: have mercy on us, make us whole, and bring us at last into the fullness of your eternal life. We ask this for the sake of your love.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer follows:

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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

All join in the General Thanksgiving:

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

The Deacon says,

Let us bow before the Lord.

The Presider offers a Solemn Prayer over the People:

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people gathered before you;
and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Presence
may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Deacon dismisses us, saying

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Presider Laura A. Bryant *Deacon* Stan Baker *Cantor* Mark Howe