
☞ THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ☞

ORDER OF WORSHIP • MARCH 19, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ OPENING HYMN

RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE
LBW #393

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

WL: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

WL: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

WL: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

All: And You forgive the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

WL: O almighty God, merciful Father,

All: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

WL: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and ev - er shall be. world with - out end. A - men.

✠ KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: Let us pray: Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into Your light until Your ways become visible to us and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed—a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”—that we may also say, “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray.

All: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 42:14-21

R: The Old Testament lesson for this fourth Sunday in Lent comes from the book the prophet Isaiah, the forty-second chapter.

¹⁴ "For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. ¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. ¹⁷ But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸ "Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? ²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen." ²¹ It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

R: Today's Epistle lesson is from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 9

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord!

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

GOD LOVED THE WORLD
LBW #292

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

WL: God our faithful Shepherd, we depend on You for everything we need: for daily food, for guidance and protection, for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow. You respond in abundant provision. Thank You for Your tender care of us. Thank You for soothing the wounds of this life. Thank You that in the presence of enemies, especially the last enemy of death, You are with us, as Shepherd, Host, Home.

Knowing Your faithfulness in our lives, we bring before You the lives of others, the cares of this world, entrusting all things to Your goodness and mercy. Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Bring release to those who are held captive by old hurts or new bonds that oppress and entangle. Bring freedom to those unjustly accused, relief to those burdened with debt, comfort to all who suffer from abuse of any kind.

We pray for people living precariously in the midst of war. Protect, we pray, citizens and soldiers alike, and teach us to put away our weapons, taking up instead words of peace and reconciliation. By the power at work in Christ, break down the walls of hostility we build so that we may learn to live together graciously. We remember those living in the midst of drought and famine. We pray for rain to fall and crops to grow, and for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources, until all Your children receive their daily bread; until all Your children have clean water to drink; until all Your children have adequate shelter and medical care. Compel us to be better stewards of creation so that our habitation is sustainable and responsible.

Loving God, help us to see the world as You see it; to see others as You see them; and to see ourselves rightly, too. Because You have come into this world for judgment, we can leave our judgments behind. Pursue us all with Your goodness and faithful love until goodness and faithful love fills every heart and informs every action. We pray these things in the name of the one who came that we might see, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

All: Amen.

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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✠ OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE & SANCTUS

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

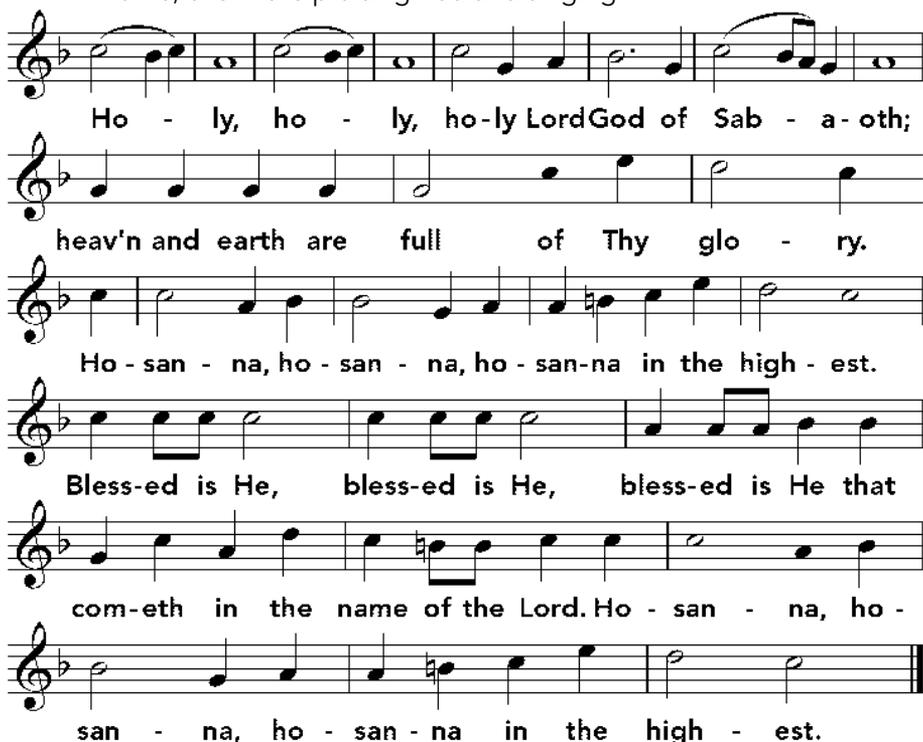
WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

WL: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that
com - eth in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Together we pray as our Savior has taught us:

All: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: Amen.

✠ AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the
 sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the
 sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the
 sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

A - - - - - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN
JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

LBW #94
LBW #296

✝ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: Amen.

✝ CHARGE & BLESSING

WL: Arise! Shine! For the light of Christ is upon you. Go into the world bearing the fruit of Christ's light so that all might see what is good and right and true; and live as children of the light to the glory of God.

May the love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you, and the Holy Spirit keep you; as you dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long.

All: Amen.

✝ SENDING HYMN

HAVE YOU NOT KNOWN?

K. Lee Scott

*printed on p. 12 | Parish Choir leads and
Congregation joins in the refrain*

✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Have You Not Known?

Isaiah 40:21-31
Adapt. K. LEE SCOTT

K. LEE SCOTT

- CHOIR 1. Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you that the everlasting God
dwells on high in starry splendor?
His glory is unspeakable; his power shall never fail.

Refrain

They that wait on the LORD shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up as eagles; they shall run and not grow weary;
they shall walk and never faint.

- CHOIR 2. To whom will God, the LORD, compare?
Who can stand his equal? By his word he formed the heavens,
by his power he e'er sustains them.
Vain rulers perish hopelessly; strong nations come to naught. But...

Refrain

- CHOIR 3. Then why complain, O Israel?
Why downcast, O Jacob? Do you think he does not see?
Is your way now disregarded?
His knowledge is unsearchable, his wisdom strong and sure.

Refrain

Congregation and Choir

4. Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told
you that the ev - er - last - ing God nei - ther tires nor grows wea -
ry? E'en youths shall stum - ble help - less - ly, the young grow weak and
Refrain
faint. But they that wait on the LORD shall re - new their
strength. They shall mount up as ea - gles; they shall run and not grow
wea - ry; they shall walk and nev - er faint.

Repeat Refrain

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