

A SERVICE FOR A TIME OF HEALING

(This service may be adapted as needed for use in a variety of settings, including those who are homebound during this time of seclusion)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

A PENITENTIAL ORDER: RITE TWO

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14,16)

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence may be kept.

Leader and 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**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

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

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray.

After a period of silence, the Leader says the following Collects

God our healer, whose mercy is like a refining fire: by the loving-kindness of Jesus, heal us and those for whom we pray; that being renewed by you, we may witness your wholeness to our broken world; through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

THE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT - 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

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 RESPONSE - PSALM 23

Dominus regit me

(The people read text in bold.)

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.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE - 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 GOSPEL - 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."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (*You can find this week's response on the home page of the website.*)

(A homily or other form of response, such as personal reflections, song, instrumental music, other art forms, silence, may follow the Gospel.)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: A LITANY OF HEALING

The Leader 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

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

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

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

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

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

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

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

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

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

People: Hear us, O Lord of life.

Leader: 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;

People: Hear us, O Lord of life.

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

People: Hear us, O Lord of life.

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

People: Hear us, O Lord of life.

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

People: Hear us, O Lord of life.

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

People: Hear us, O Lord of life.

Leader: You are the Lord who does wonders:

People: You have declared your power among the peoples.

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

People: And in your light we see light.

Leader: Hear us, O Lord of life:

People: Heal us, and make us whole.

Leader: Let us pray.

A period of silence follows.

A time of personal prayers and petitions are invited, either silently or aloud.

The Leader concludes the Prayers with the following Collect

Open us to your healing power, O God. We entrust ourselves to your care, knowing that you are doing for us and for all the world far better things than we can ask or imagine. With you as our companion and guide, strengthen us to hope for all that is good, and to fear no evil. For your love is stronger than death, and your faithfulness reaches to the heavens; and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Leader: May God who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the Name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

Leader: *The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

(All present may greet one another in the name of Christ with some greeting appropriate to this time.)

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

RESOURCES FOR THIS LITURGY:

A Public Service of Healing (Adapted from The Book of Occasional Services, 2018)

Book of Common Prayer, Rite II

The Lectionary Page: <http://lectionarypage.net>

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The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.)

This liturgy created by the clergy and people of St. John's Episcopal Church, New Haven, CT