



# ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Holy Eucharist

10a

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 19, 2023

*It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.*

### Liturgy of the Word

#### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn

*O for a thousand tongues to sing*

**Hymnal 493**  
*Azman*

*People stand as able*

#### Opening Acclamation

Presider                   Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.  
People                   **God's mercy endures for ever.**

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.**

*Children in kindergarten through the fifth grade may choose to follow the cross to Walking in the Word during the Trisagion.*

#### Trisagion

**S-100**  
*Hurd*

#### Collect of the Day

Presider                   God be with you.  
People                   **And also with you.**  
Presider                   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.**

#### First Reading

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*The People are seated*

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.

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

## Psalm

23

- 1 O God, you are my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
  - 2 You make me lie down in green pastures \*  
and lead me beside still waters.
  - 3 You revive my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways  
for the sake of your Name.
  - 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 God for ever.

## *The Saint Helena Psalter Translation*

## **Second Reading**

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.”

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

## Gospel Hymn

## *My Shepherd will supply my need*

*The People stand as able.*

## Hymnal 664 *Resignation*

## Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

*Remain standing*

Presider                   The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
People                   **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Presider                   The Gospel of our Savior.  
People                   **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

**The Rev. Kelly Kirby**

## Nicene Creed

*The People stand as able*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
    and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
    who 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*After each petition, the People respond     Hear our prayer.*

#### **Confession of Sin**

*Stand or kneel. The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Presider 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.**

#### **Absolution**

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

#### **Peace**

*All stand.*

*Presider                          The peace of Christ be always with you.  
People                            And also with you.*

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements and Celebrations

### Birthday Collect

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### Holy Communion

During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift will help us continue vital ministries. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option. Please use this link for online giving.  
<https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/5QFR9K>

### Offertory Anthem

Near the Cross

LEVAS 29

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross, There's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;  
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4. Near the cross, I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

1. Free to all, a heal - ing stream Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
2. There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.  
3. Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.  
4. Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.

In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er;

Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be-yond the riv - er.

*The People stand while the offerings are presented.*

**O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed, who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.**

### Great Thanksgiving

#### Eucharistic Prayer C

*The People remain standing.*

Presider	God be with you.
People	<b>And also with you.</b>
Presider	Lift up your hearts.
People	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
Presider	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By Christ's blood, we are reconciled. By Christ's wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**

S-124  
Hurd

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Presider continues*

And so, Almighty God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our holy and righteous fore-bearers; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

*The Presider then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

### **Fraction Anthem**

**S-161**  
*Hurd*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All who seek God and are drawn to God through Christ are welcome to receive communion. Please remain seated until guided by the ushers to communion. Return to your seat by the side aisles. If for any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread. Please use hand sanitizer if you will receive wine.*

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Let us pray.

*Those praying from home are invited to say this prayer.*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

### **Communion Hymn**

*The King of love my shepherd is*

**Hymnal 645**  
*St. Columba*

*Eucharist Visitors may be commissioned.*

*After Communion, the Presider says*

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

*People and Presider*

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Solemn Prayer over the People**

**Closing Hymn**

*How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise*

**Hymnal 533**  
*Lyons*

**Dismissal**

*The Deacon says the dismissal, and then the people say:*

*Deacon*                   **Let us go forth in the name of Christ.**  
*People*                  **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**