



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

▣ Bishop ▣ Assisting Minister ▣ All

GATHERING

Greeting

▣ Blessed be the holy Trinity, the Father,
the ✝ Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

▣ **Amen.**

▣ God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people.
Turn us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your
Holy Spirit that we might confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,
and grow in the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

▣ **Amen.**

Confession & Forgiveness

▣ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

▣ Most merciful God,

▣ **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us,
renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk
in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

☒ God is rich in mercy and loves us even when we are dead in sin, and makes us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ might live in our hearts through faith.

☒ Amen.

Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

ELW #793

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Prayer of the Day

☩ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☩ **And also with you.**

☩ Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ **Amen.**

HEARING THE WORD

Psalm

Psalm 23

☩ *The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.*

☩ *The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.*

☩ *You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your 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 prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.*

☩ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Gospel

John 9:1-41

☩ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

☩ 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 worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement 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.

▲ The Gospel of the Lord.
■ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop Bill Gohl

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,

2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Prayers of the People

A Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who is gathered, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A We invite those gathered with us online to add your prayers to these prayers that have been named by using the hashtag #demdprays on any form of social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and beyond.

We bring all of these prayers before you. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

☩ According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

☩ Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

☩ Let us pray together the words Jesus taught us.

**☩ 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.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

☩ Your word is a lamp to our feet

☩ and a light on our path.

☩ Blessed are you, Lord our God.

How sweet are your words to the taste,
sweeter than honey to the mouth.

How precious are your commands for our life,
more than the finest gold in our hands.

How marvellous is your will for the world,
unending is your love for the nations.

Our voices shall sing of your promises
and our lips declare your praise
for ever and ever.

☩ Amen.

☩ The Word of life which was from the beginning

☩ we proclaim to you.

☩ The dusk gives way to the dawn;

☩ the Word of life which was from the beginning.

☩ That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,

☩ we proclaim to you.

☩ For our fellowship is with the Creator,
and with the Christ.

**☩ The Word of life, which was from the beginning,
we proclaim to you.**

☩ Let us bless the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

SENDING

Blessing

☩ Beloved, go into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Render unto no one an evil thing for an evil thing. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Comfort the afflicted. Cry out for justice. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and abide in you, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

