



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

We believe in sharing the experience of love and grace by seeking relationship with God and one another.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Sunday, March 22, 2020

Morning Prayer

The Officiant says

Rite One

BCP 38

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. *Joel 2:13*

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Confession of Sin

All kneel.

The Officiant then says

BCP 41

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Officiant stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Invitatory and Psalter

All stand.

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
People And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: O come, let us adore him.

Psalm 95: Venite

BCP 146

- 1 Come, let us sing to the LORD;*
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is a great God,*
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth,*
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,*
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,*
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
- 8 Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness,*
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.
- 9 They put me to the test,*

though they had seen my works.

- 10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said,*
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”
- 11 So I swore in my wrath,*
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

Psalm Appointed,

All are seated.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

- 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 will be for ever.
Amen.

Readings

First Reading

The people remain seated.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

Canticle 4

BCP 50

Standing

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,*
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us*
in the house of his servant David,
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets,*
which have been since the world began:

That we should be saved from our enemies,*
and from the hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers,*
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,*
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies*
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him,*
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest,*
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord
to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people*
for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God,*
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

The people are seated.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 14

BCP 90

Standing

A Song of Penitence *Kyrie Pantokrator*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven,*
 God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
 and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth,*
 with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence;*
 they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure;*
 it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion,*
 long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand;*
 you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners,*
 that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart,*
 and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned,*
 and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you:*
 Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin,*
 nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent,*
 and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy,*
 and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises,*
 and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-38

The people are seated.

A Reading from John.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Homily

Rev. Candice B. Frazer

Apostles' Creed

BCP 53

All stand.

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 Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day he rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
 From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements

Announcements may be made at this point in the service.

Offertory

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

Anthem: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arr. David Hurd

Bill Taylor, Baritone

Prayers

The people stand or kneel.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.

The Officiant and People say responsively

Suffrages A

BCP 55

V.Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

R.grant us thy salvation.

V.thy ministers with righteousness;

R.make thy chosen people joyful.

V.peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R.only in thee can we live in safety.

V., keep this nation under thy care;

R.guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V.thy way be known upon earth;

R.saving health among all nations.

V.not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R.the hope of the poor be taken away.

V.in us clean hearts, O God;

R.sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

The Officiant then says

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sundays

BCP 56

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

BCP 58

O God, who hast made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee; bring the nations into thy fold; pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Praise H490 I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
I want to look at Je-sus.
I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
show me the way to the Fa-ther.
shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The
 night and the day are both a - like. The
 Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

rit.

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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Prayers of the People

Intercessor

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 we thine unworthy servants
 do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
 for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
 to us and to all men.
 We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
 and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

Officiant

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your word may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance: and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and remain with you always. *Amen*

PRAYERS FOR ASCENSION

PARISHIONERS: The Copeland Family, Tim Lewis, The Derickson Family, Dr. Pamela Gay, Hugh Alsabrook, Ellen Brooks, Edith Crook, Al Cantrell, Mrs. Glenn Sylvest, Wall, Andrea Cathey, Violet Monson, Betty Godbold, Sophie Xides, Joyce Hobbs, Frances Hill, Dan Hackett, Charles and Henrietta Hubbard, Sug Keene, The Lewis Family, Lila Ashley Dryer, Caroline James, Sue Hicks

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