

# the fourth sunday of lent

march 22, 2020

9:00 am

## MORNING PRAYER

*Welcome to St. James' Facebook Live worship.*

*Please use this Service Leaflet along with your Book of Common Prayer to join our hearts and minds in thanks and praise to our Lord God.*

### The Collect

**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.**

### Psalm 23

- 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.

### The First Lesson: 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 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 he walked along, Jesus 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.

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Jean M. DeVaty**

### **TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, especially Christ Church ministering there. We pray God's blessing and favor upon the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and the Dioceses of East Tennessee and Eau Claire, WI. In our Diocese we ask your blessing and favor upon our Bishop Bill and his family; upon St. John's, Essex; St. James' Church, Fort Edward; St. James' Church, Lake Delaware; Christ Church, Gilbertsville; and Christ Church, Herkimer.

We pray for protection and keeping for Douglas, Jody, Adam, and all our men and women who have served or are now serving in our Armed Forces, here and abroad.

We pray for comfort, strength, and healing for all who are in sickness, trouble or need, especially Dick, Bob, Karen, Todd, Dori, Pattie Jo, Ellie, Lynn, Margie, Joyce, Stephen, Dana, Pam, Katherine, Claudia, and Holly.

We pray for wisdom and discernment for our Rector and Vestry as they lead St. James': Mtr. Jean, Tiffany, Scott, Barbara, Bob, Jay, Bonnie, Jackie and Michele.

We give thanks for Margie Schmidt who celebrates a birthday this week.

## READ, MARK, AND INWARDLY DIGEST

**During this National Emergency** there will be no in person services and the office is closed. Please join us on Facebook Live at 9:00 each Sunday for corporate worship. Please keep in touch with each other by phone, email, or notes and pray daily for each other.

### How we may be the family of God in this time:

1. **Seek Christ** daily and pray! As often as we can we will post a video of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page. Morning Prayer gives you the Word of God for the day and in return you give your day to the Lord. If you do not have access to the internet, please let us know when we check in with you so that we might send devotional materials to encourage you.
2. **Live Christ** by calling one another to give and receive encouragement and to make certain that we all have what we need to walk through this together. If you discover a need, please call the church office to let us know so that we may help.
3. **Share Christ** by sending notes or cards. Who doesn't like to receive mail? It only takes three sentences to remind someone that you are thinking and praying for him or her. Why not send a few to Glens Falls Hospital to give to those who have no visitors.
4. **Praise Christ** with how you live during this time. Love God by taking care of yourself and giving yourself to others.

**Observe a Holy Lent with Stations of the Cross:** The stations of the cross will be available to watch on our Facebook page as well as our website. This is a powerful way to walk with our Lord Jesus Christ during this national emergency.

**Change for Change with Heifer International.** All through Lent, the Daughters of the King will be collecting change to purchase life changing items for people in need. Please take a self-denial box and help purchase a flock of poultry, a goat, or a hive of bees.

**Next week's Scripture lessons.** Read ahead and prepare your heart to hear God's Word: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45.

**Offering March 15, 2020: \$484.00. If you are able please send your tithes and offerings to the church office during this time.**

**Service leaflet announcements** are due in the office by Tuesday.

## Seek Christ. Live Christ. Share Christ.

### St. James' Episcopal Church

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