

The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

March 22, 2020: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Hymn

Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Melody *Geystliche Gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal, alt.; Tune: Ratisbon

Christ whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise! Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Lenten Penitential Order

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

People And also with you.

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures forever.

Presider Almighty God,

All to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

Presider The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Presider Most merciful God,
All 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 neighbours 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.

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Reading

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Reader For 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.

Psalm

Psalm 23—Plainsong

Cantor The Lord is my shep-herd; *
I shall not be in want.

All He makes me lie down in green pas-tures *
and leads me be-side still waters.

Cantor He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

All Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no e-vil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they com-fort me.

Cantor You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trou-ble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is run-ning o-ver.

All 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 e-ver.

The Holy Gospel

John 9: 1-41

Gospeller The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

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

Gospeller 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 neighbours 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 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.’

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ. *People* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Apostles’ Creed

Presider Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Anthem Comfort Ye *Text: Isaiah 40:1-3; Music: G.F. Handel*
Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The Prayers of the People

Please join in the response indicated by the Intercessor.

The Lord’s Prayer

McNeil Robinson

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

The Blessing

Presider May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

Hymn

Text: Henry Francis Lyte; Music: Henry Thomas Smart; Tune: Heathlands

God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of thy face;
shine upon us, Saviour, shine, fill thy church with light divine;
and thy saving health extend unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise thee, Lord; be by all that live adored;
let the nations shout and sing glory to their Saviour King;
at thy feet their tribute pay, and thy holy will obey.

Let the people praise thee, Lord; earth shall then her fruits afford,
God to man his blessing give, man to God devoted live:
all below and all above, one in joy and light and love.