

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH -- THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT -- MARCH 19, 2023

READINGS: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13; PSALM 23; EPHESIANS 5:8-14; JOHN 9:1-41

Organ: Jesus, Priceless Treasure – J. S. Bach

Hymn 429: I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

THE WORD OF GOD

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins. God's mercy endures for ever.

As we prepare to worship, let us call to mind our sins, and the infinite mercy of God. (*silence*)

Almighty God; Long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart, my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cantor All
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Cantor All
Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.

Cantor All Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

May God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

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

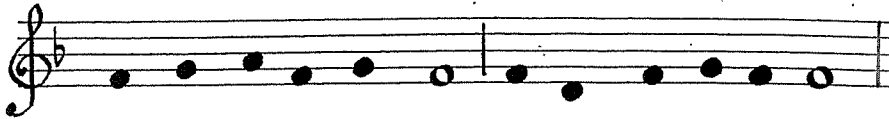
A Reading from the Book of First Samuel

In this Hebrew scripture story, the Lord sends Samuel to anoint David to be the new king over Israel. As so often happens in the Bible, one who seems least likely in the eyes of others is chosen by God to carry out the divine will.

The Lord said to Samuel, "I have rejected Saul from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons. 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. Jesse brought his sons to Samuel, who looked on the first, Eliab. 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." Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel, who said, "The Lord has not chosen this one." Jesse made Shammah pass by and Samuel again said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and all were not chosen by the Lord. "Are all your sons here?" asked Samuel. Jesse replied, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep; I will send for him." 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 Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In Psalm 23 the Lord is shepherd and guide. God is present in the time of danger and is generous and merciful. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated.



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

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. **R.** 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. **R.** 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. 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. **R.**

A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians

In this New Testament lesson, disciples are called to be a people of the light, forsaking all the works of darkness.

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 Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All stand -- Choir: Tract, Psalm 122, Tone II

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along in Galilee, 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." Jesus 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." Siloam means 'sent'. The man 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." His neighbors were astonished. "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."

Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened the man's eyes. So the people brought him to the Pharisees, who also asked him how he had regained his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "Aha! This Jesus 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?" Because they were divided about who Jesus was and what he had done, they asked the man directly. "What is your opinion about him? After all, it was your eyes he opened." The man who could now see said, "He is a prophet."

The Pharisees, still unable to understand, went to the man's parents. "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" They answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

So for the second time the Pharisees summoned the man who had been born blind. "Testify and give glory to God! We know that this Jesus is a sinner. What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" Frustrated and annoyed, he answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see. 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, "We are disciples of Moses; you must be his disciple. God has spoken to Moses, but as for this Jesus, we do not know where he comes from." "Here is an astonishing thing!" said the man. "You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 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." Indignant, the Pharisees snarled at him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" By force, they drove him out of the village.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out. He looked for him, 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 think they see may become blind."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

What do we believe?

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.

Prayers of the People

*Prayers are offered for the Church, the world; for all people in need or want, and for those who have died. The people are invited to offer aloud their own petitions and prayers. The response to the petitions: **Lord, have mercy.***

Holy Communion

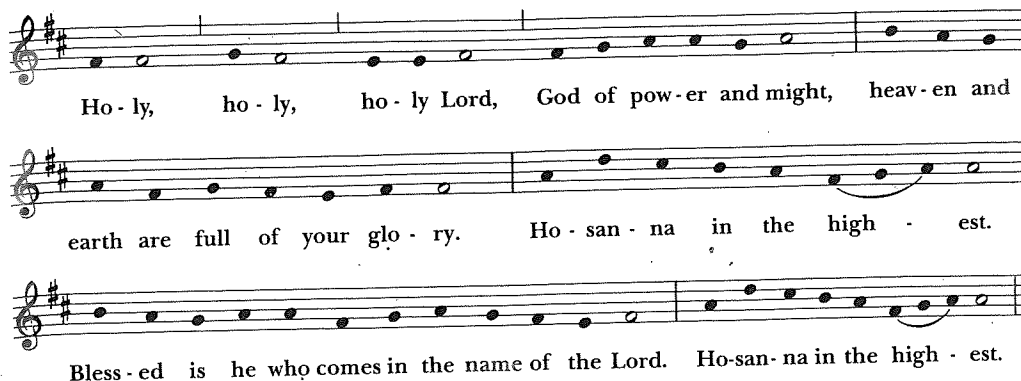
All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; the wine by either sipping from the chalice or dipping the bread in the wine. Kindly let the celebrant know if you would prefer a blessing instead and in addition to receiving Communion.

Hymn 490, I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Lord's Prayer
After the breaking of the bread:*

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are they who are called to his supper.

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

God of light; Your Gospel brings to us a new vision of your glory, and through your goodness we receive your Son in word and sacrament. May we always have faith in him, who is Jesus the Christ, our Lord and savior. **Amen.**

Look down in mercy on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 645, The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Organ: Trumpets in Dialogue -- Louis Nicolas Clerambault

WE WELCOME CAROLYN THIBIDEAU AS OUR ORGANIST THIS MORNING;
AND STEPHANIE DEAN, SOPRANO

We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.
20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
www.stmichaelsgpw.org