

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

Psalm 23:1

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Morning Prayer
March 22, 2020, 10:30 am

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite One, beginning on page 37 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**. The initials "SH" refer to page numbers in the small Supplemental Hymnal in the pew racks.

We will observe silence together in Epiphany Online to prepare for worship.

Prelude: *Near the Cross*

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses,
though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed
the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he
set before us.

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Our worship communication introduces delays. We invite you to recite our
shared passages silently or aloud with your microphone muted.*

**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, Almighty and most merciful Father,
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 Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and
remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life,
and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter (*we stand*)

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

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.

Invitatory Psalm - *Venite*

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let
us adore him.**

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our
salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let
us adore him.**

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it, *
and his hands prepared the dry land.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let
us adore him.**

O come, let us worship and fall down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let
us adore him.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let
us adore him.**

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.**

**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.**

The Lessons

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 1 – A Song of Creation

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

II The Cosmic Order

O ye heavens, bless ye the Lord; *

**O ye waters that be above the firmament, bless ye the
Lord;**

O all ye powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye sun and moon, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye stars of heaven, bless ye the Lord;

O ye showers and dew, bless ye the Lord; *

praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye winds of God, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye fire and heat, bless ye the Lord;

O ye winter and summer, bless ye the Lord; *

praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye dews and frosts, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye frost and cold, bless ye the Lord;

O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord; *

praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye nights and days, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye light and darkness, bless ye the Lord;

O ye lightnings and clouds, bless ye the Lord; *

praise him and magnify him for ever.

IV The People of God

O ye people of God, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;

O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *

praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; *

praise him and magnify him for ever.

The Epistle Lesson – 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 word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Canticle 2 – A Song of Creation

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

The Gospel Lesson – John 9:1-41

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. 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."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Apostles' Creed (*we 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.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offering

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings
and come into his courts.

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

**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.**

Suffrages

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in thee can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let thy way be known upon earth;
Thy saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Our National Struggle

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, we know that you are present in the midst of all we face, including Covid-19, the coronavirus. For its victims, please bring healing and wholeness. For the medical staff providing diagnosis and treatment, please bring strength, wisdom, and compassion. For the leaders of our country, our state, and our communities, please bring wisdom, tenderness, and caring. For us, your children, we ask your protection and for clarity for our ministry during this difficult time. Be with us, dear Lord; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Our Parish

Lord of life, we ask your special blessing on Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, this tiny piece of your kingdom on earth, as we struggle to continue in the face of the disease racing through our nation. Help us to cling fiercely to you and to each other, to remember the love that unites us, and to follow the example of Christ in caring for others. Strengthen us. Make us patient. Help us do what we must to stay healthy. Through your Son the Great Physician and our Savior. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Missions

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgiving

We pray for the souls of all those who have died from Covid-19, the coronavirus, and all who have departed this life, including those we now name silently, aloud, or by chat.

Silence

In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Micah Hart, Dennis Harper, Larry and Pat Sharpton, Troy Warlick, Dezzel Oliver, Tom Haynie, Beth Hall, Maurice McCord, Sharon Browning, Julie Williams, George Rowell, Mike Dickey**, and the others we now name.

Silence

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. For the Diocese of Jerusalem, and for the Episcopal Retreat Houses and places of spiritual refreshment.

The General Thanksgiving

**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.