



# St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Austin

March 22, 2020

The Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ LITURGY OF THE WORD

Words in **bold, italicized print** are words of the gathered assembly.

BCP refers to *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979). Holy Scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

## Welcome and Hospitality Blessing

All: ***Holy Spirit, living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at St. Alban's. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone who crosses our threshold feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let this be a place of love and acceptance of all of your children; in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

## A Penitential Order, Rite II BCP p.351

Worship Leader: Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: ***His mercy endures forever.***

Worship Leader: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

## Confession and Absolution BCP p. 352

All: ***Most merciful God, 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 neighbors 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.***

## Kyrie

All: ***Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.***

## The Collect of the Day

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Worship Leader: Let us pray.

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.**

## The Readings

The First Reading – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Worship Leader: 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.

Worship Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 23

Worship Leader: We will pray Psalm 23 responsively by whole verse.

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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 Second Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

Worship Leader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

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.'

Worship Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel – John 9:1-41

Worship Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

As he 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 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.

Worship Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

**Nicene Creed** BCP p.358

All:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People** Form I, BCP p.383

Worship Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying  
“Lord, have mercy.”

Worship Leader: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and  
for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let  
us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to  
conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and  
the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For all who are affected by the coronavirus, whether directly or indirectly, whether physically, biologically, psychologically, spiritually, and for many economically, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: For the medical professionals who care for those who are ill, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Worship Leader: In the communion of St. Alban and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: **To thee, O Lord our God.**

### **The Peace**

Worship Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **Next Sunday's Readings:**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

### **Parish Prayer List:**

To add a name to the public parish prayer list, please call Rev. Erin at (512-297-9981).

*Canon Andrew and Community of Hope Malawi, Gene and Jill B., Dale B., Robert B., Ruby D., Ellen E., Addison F., Joel and Mindy F., Deyanira H. and family, Jeff K., Reta and Royd M., Mica P., Nancy P., Rita P., Gus & Lauren R., Don and Michael R., Fred R., Alice, Evans, and Nelson S., Bob and Maryetta T., Michael W., Nancy W., Patricia, Connie, Agatha, Austin, Jennifer, Josephine, John, Bobby*