

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
19 March 2023 Year A
10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude

***Processional Hymn** The glory of these forty days (*Erhalt uns, Herr*)

Hymnal # 143

***Opening Acclamation**

BCP 355

***Collect For Purity**

The Collect of the Day

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 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.

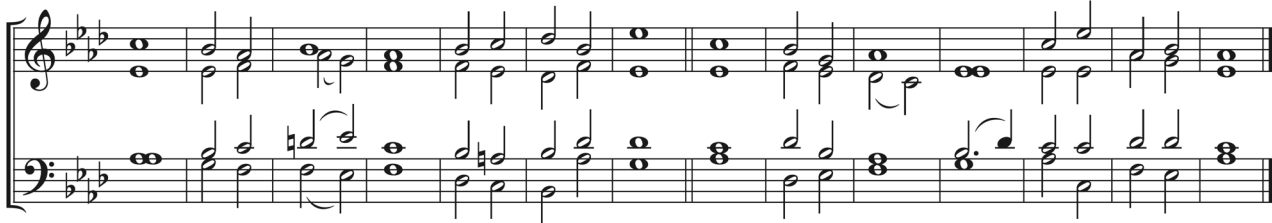
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

Venite, exultemus

C. V. Stanford



- 1 The LORD | is my | shepherd; *
I | shall not | be in | want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in | green | pastures *
and leads | me be- | side 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 Epistle Reading

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.

*Sequence Lord Jesus, Sun of righteousness (*Cornhill*)

Hymnal # 144

*The Gospel Reading

John 9:1–41

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

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Megan Castellan

***The Nicene Creed**

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.

***The Prayers of the People**

As a sign of our obedience, let us bend the knee of our hearts, and make an offering of prayer and thanksgiving to God, as we respond, "Kyrie eleison."

+ For those preparing for baptism and other rites of initiation, and those who will renew their baptismal vows at the Great Vigil of Easter, that they may find in the Church a place of spiritual integrity, renewal and hope, forgiveness and restoration; let us pray.

Kyrie eleison.

+ That Christians throughout the world who are being persecuted for being followers of Christ may be protected by the strong armor of faith, and sustained by the fervent prayers of all the baptized; let us pray.

Kyrie eleison.

+ That the work of God may be made visible through our weaknesses and shortcomings, bearing witness to others of the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome the heartache and despair that visits every human heart; let us pray.

Kyrie eleison.

+ That we who celebrate this Eucharistic Meal may receive the mercy of the Lamb, who shares our burdens, removes our sin, and restores us to the company of the faithful; let us pray.

Kyrie eleison.

+ For all who are preparing for Holy Week and the Great Paschal Feast of Easter, especially choirs, altar guilds, church staff, and clergy, that their efforts may inspire our participation; let us pray.

Kyrie eleison.

+ That those who have died may rest in peace, and we who hear of war and famine remain restless until the day of peace has come; let us pray.

Kyrie eleison.

Knowing that Jesus opens the eyes of the blind, gives voice to the voiceless, and frees those who are imprisoned by fear, let us with confidence continue our prayers.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for

Joan	Rebecca	Deb	Lorraine	Julianne	Virginia
Richard	Strater	Allison	Edith	Faicia	Daniel
Shirley	Penny	Elizabeth	Kathryn	Eleanor	Penny
Wes	Peter	Katie	Ruth	Bob	
Charles	Dave	Theodore	Frank	Judy	
Dick	Cece	Carol	Jack	Jeff	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Ed Siemon, Lauren Way, Scott Miller

Confession Of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

***The Peace**

Please remain in your pew. Wave!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem The Lord's my Shepherd

Richard Hillert (1923–2010)

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He
makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet
waters by.
My soul he doth restore again, and me to
walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his
own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet
will I fear no ill;

For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff
me comfort still.
My table thou has furnished in presence of
my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my
cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely
follow me,
And in God's house forevermore, my
dwelling place shall be.

*Presentation Hymn Oh Christ, the Word Incarnate (*Meiningsches Gesangbuch*) Hymnal # 632

*The Great Thanksgiving

Expanded Language Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts
People: We lift them to the Lord
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: *continuing:* 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:

Holy, holy, holy (*Sanctus*)

Hymnal #S-

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, Sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fraction Anthem Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*)

Hymnal #S-164

The Communion of the People

All people are invited to the Lord's Table.

Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.

You may either intinct your wafer in the small chalice, or you may drink from the larger common chalice after consuming the wafer.

Please replace your mask after receiving the sacrament.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music With quiet calm forbearing (Becker Psalter, after Psalm 40)

Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672)

Post Communion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Blessing

***Recessional** Eternal Lord of love (*Old 124th*)

Hymnal # 149

Dismissal

Postlude Fugue in g minor BWV 542-2

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Acolyte: Alyssa Green

Liturgical Ministers: Josette Garrison, Jerome Fung, Beverly Way
Virtual Vergers Sara VanLooy, Amber Massa

The Eucharistic and Aumbry candles this month are Given to the Glory of God in memory of Edith N. Arlin and Irene Noss by Mary Arlin.

St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!

May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.

LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # **A – 724223**

Easter Flowers: If you wish to make a contribution to the purchase of Easter flowers for the altar, please use this form so that we can include your loved one's name(s) on the list of those being memorialized. You may place this slip in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office by **Monday, April 3** for inclusion in the Easter Day bulletin.

\$_____ Given for Easter Flowers in memory of: _____

PLEASE GIVE FIRST (CHRISTIAN) AND LAST NAMES of those to be memorialized.



St. John's Church
210 North Cayuga Street
Ithaca, NY
(607)-273-6532
www.stjohnsithaca.org

Office email: office@stjohnsithaca.org
"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church
Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Cora Yao, Senior Warden
Parish Administrator, Cathy Wagner
Director of Music/Organist, Dr. Anna Stepler

Gwen Freeman, Junior Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter The Fledgling by contacting the church office.

Please Join Us:

Coffee Hour has resumed in the Parish Hall following the service. Please continue to wear your mask when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Morning Prayer Monday – Thursday at 9:30 on Facebook and YouTube.

Forward Day by Day for **February**, **March**, and **April** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

Flowers: If you wish to give Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).