The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2020


Grace Episcopal Church
Where Anglican tradition engages the contemporary world, Grace Church opens its doors on Madison’s Capitol Square, inviting all to join us in sharing the love of Jesus Christ in worship and in outreach to our neighbors and the world.

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**ANTE-COMMUNION RITE II 10:00AM**

*This service bulletin is provided to guide you through our worship, which begins on page 319 of the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**A Penitential Order: Rite I**  
BCP 319

**Opening Acclamation**

*Officiant:* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
*People:* His mercy endureth for ever.

**The Decalogue Rite I**  
BCP 317

_The Decalogue may be recited, or the celebrant may read the [Summary of the Law], which immediately follows._

[God spake these words, and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.]

**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.
Thou shalt not steal.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet.  
**Lord have mercy upon us,**  
and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Officiant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept*

**Confession of Sin**

*Officiant and People*

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,  
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.

*Officiant, stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Collect of the Day**

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* And also with you.
Officiant: 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.

First Reading

A reading from the first Book of 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

**Second Reading**  
*A reading from the letter to the 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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

**Gospel**  
*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.”
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

Officiant: Let us pray. Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People: That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray especially for Matthew & Jessica, Donna, Carole Badger, Benny Benson, Mary Burkel, Michael Cassidy, Peter Ferris, Laura Sky Hansford, Roger Hirsch, Marilyn Hocker, Kia Karlen, Jennifer, Joyce Pollock, Julius Roa, JoAnn Sarow, Blair Savage, Brenda Smith, Janice Tippins, Doug Van Schoik, Suzanna Waters Castillo, and Jean White.

We also pray for our homebound, Hanna and Jim Bailey, Jeannine Denning, and Winnie Rodger.

We pray for the repose of the souls of Alice Ntambi and Ben Webster.

We pray for the Diocese of Milwaukee, the Episcopal Search Committee, and the Standing Committee during our search for our next bishop.

We pray for ourselves and everyone throughout the world suffering, fearful, or isolated on account of COVID-19; we pray for all those caring for the sick and dying; and for all those making difficult decisions in this time.
The Lord’s Prayer
Officiant: And now, in the words our Lord Jesus Christ taught us, 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.

Silence
The People may add their own petitions.
The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

Solemn Prayer Over the People
Officiant: Bow down before the Lord.
Look down in mercy, Lord, 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.

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