



Holy Nativity



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020

Website Version: holynativityparish.org

A Reading from the Hebrew Scripture 1 Samuel 16:1-13

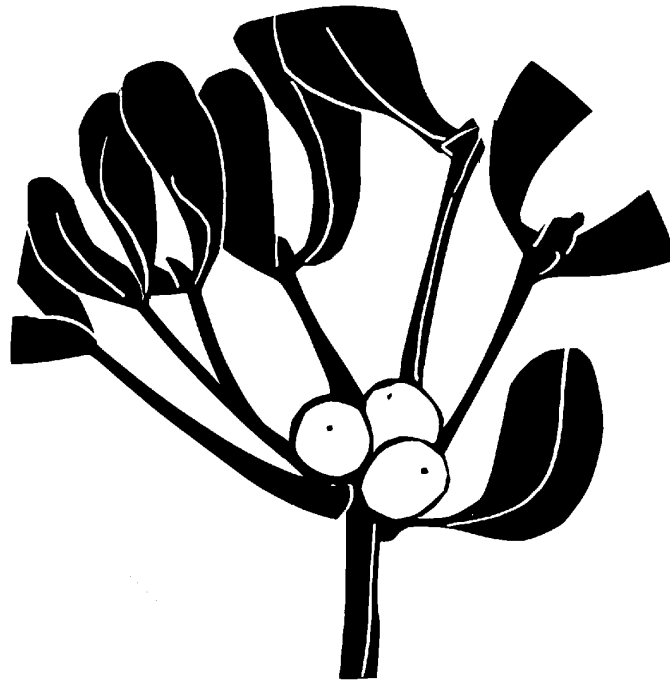
The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

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.



Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A Reading from the New Testament 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 Holy Gospel of our Savior 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."



The Prayers of the People

Saving God, you are the giver of living water, the source of deepest compassion, the fountain of eternal life. Therefore we pray to you for the needs of the world by saying, "Hear us, Lord. Hear us."

We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus, by infection, by fear for oneself or loved ones, for those isolated by quarantine . . .

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For all healthcare givers — nurses, physicians, aides, EMTs, paramedics, technicians and therapists; out of the depths . . .

For hospital and nursing home medical staff, assistants, and housekeepers who have close contact with patients and for the patients themselves . . .

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For all who travel for their daily work over land and sea and through the air — flight attendants, pilots, ship captains and sailors, bus drivers, passengers and long-distance truck drivers . . .

For all who handle money — bankers, supermarket, village market and convenience store cashiers . . .

For all who pump gas and serve customers at Interstate rest areas . . .

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For restaurant workers — bartenders, coffee shop baristas, cooks, servers, chefs, and dishwashers . . .

For hospitality workers — hotel receptionists, servers, and housekeepers . . .

For daycare center staff who cuddle and comfort children and for all children and for the parents and family who love them . . .

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For all who are thirsty — thirsty for a life of meaning, thirsty for a word of grace, thirsty for a drink of water . . .

For all who are weary — weary from life's long journey, weary from quarreling and testing, weary from pain or grief . . .

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For all who are broken — broken by sin and suffering, broken by hard disappointment, broken by acts of violence . . .

For all who need support, a kind word, a moment of our time . . .

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

Living God, through your Spirit, pour your love into our hearts, your grace into our lives, your healing into our world, until the earth is filled with your glory as the waters cover the sea; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

People: **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider: May God love you and have mercy on you;
Through the cross of Christ, pardon you and set you free.
God forgives you. Forgive others. Forgive yourself.
In the name of the Source, the Word, and the Spirit. **Amen.**

May the peace of God be always with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

*The Sursum Corda is a form of introduction to prayer.
Here begins the Great Thanksgiving.*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues.

Praise and thanksgiving belong to you, God of every blessing, for you shaped all creation to grow into your abundant and eternal harvest. You called a holy people to share life with you, and when they were captive in Egypt, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, you brought them out of oppression through the temptations of the wilderness into a land flowing with milk and

honey. In time, your Son came among us, facing wilderness and temptation and hunger to bring us out of bondage to sin and to taste and see that you, the Lord, are good.

And so we thank you with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as we join the unending hymn:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues.

God of mercy, you gave your people manna day by day during their time of testing; and because no one can live by bread alone, you gave Jesus to be our bread from heaven. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church to live as a sign of the way you transform this manna into mercy for all. With your Spirit, bless this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread, he gave you thanks, he broke the bread, and he gave it to them, saying, "Take; eat. This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Presider: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Presider continues.

Faithful God, whose Son did not escape suffering and death but accepted and finally overcame them, bring your disciples by the way of his cross to the joy of Easter. Strengthen your church to resist evil of every kind and turn from sin. With your mighty hand and outstretched arm, uphold those enduring trials and any who know their very life is at stake. Be with your children who are heavy laden and all who labor beneath the misuse of power by another.

Amid temptations to be successful, shape your children first to be faithful to your kingdom until the day when in your resurrected glory there is one life, one sharing, one holy communion among all the saints with you to whom all glory belongs forever, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Presider says:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Everyone says.

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Invitation

Presider: Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**



The Holy Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

**We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the free and abundant gift of grace
you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

**Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

Presider: Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone. Nor do we have to be afraid, for the Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit guides our path.

And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, Jesus Christ. May the blessing of God, our mother and father, and of Jesus, who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit, who sustains us, be with us this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Presider: Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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The Right Reverend John H. Taylor

Bishop Suffragan

The Right Reverend Diane Jardine-Bruce

MISSION STATEMENT

**We are a community of people who share our joy
in the peace and love of God with our children and neighbors.
We support each other as we celebrate God's blessings in our
lives through worship, prayer, music, and service to others.**