

**Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.**  
*The Fourth Sunday of Lent in Year A*  
**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**8am spoken worship; 11am Worship with music**

**Join worship on computer/smart device <https://zoom.us/j/99005230944>**  
**Call-in to worship: 1-646-876-9923, Enter Meeting ID 99005230944#**

Hello & good day! We are glad indeed that you are here indeed.  
This is a place where we nurture souls with prayerful worship.  
If we can help you in any way, please let us know!

Office: 570-563-1564 Rev. John Davis: 570-575-8689

**Processional: Hymnal #533**

***How Wondrous and Great***

1 How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise! How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways! O who shall not fear thee, and honor thy Name? Thou only, art holy, thou only, supreme.  
2 To nations of earth thy light shall be shown; their worship and vows shall come to thy throne: thy truth and thy judgments shall spread all abroad, till earth's every people confess thee their God.

**The Decalogue**

***Deacon and people kneeling***

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.  
You shall have no other gods but me.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not make for yourself any idol.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Honor your father and your mother.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit murder.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit adultery.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*  
You shall not steal.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not be a false witness.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

*The Deacon says:*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our 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 other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Deacon then says:*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*(Silence may be kept)*

*Deacon and People:*

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

*The Deacon says:*

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

## **The Word of God**

### **The Acclamation and the Collect for Purity**

*Deacon* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

*People* His mercy endures for ever. *Amen*.

*The Deacon says*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

### **The Gloria**

Lord, have mercy

*Christ, have mercy*

Lord, have mercy

### **The Collect of the Day**

*The Deacon says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Deacon* Let us pray.

*The Deacon says the Collect.*

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*.

### **A Prayer for Our Search**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously upon us your people, here at the Church of the Epiphany, and so guide our minds as we choose a new priest for our parish; that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for us and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*. [BCP pg. 818 no. 13: (adaptation)]

### **The Readings**

#### **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. *[pause]*

### **The Word of the Lord**

*Thanks be to God*

**The Psalm for today is Psalm 23: we shall read the Psalm responsively.**

- 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.*

### **A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians**

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.” *[pause]*

### **The Word of the Lord**

*Thanks be to God*

#### **Gradual: Hymnal #339**

#### ***Deck Thyself (v.1 only)***

1 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy thy praises render unto him whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous banquet founded; high o'er all the heavens he reigneth, yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. 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 reflection**

**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 - Form II**

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Kevin, for this gathering; and for all other ministers and people.  
For the Pygmy Ministry in Uganda, its Primary class Seven.  
For St. Gabriel's, Douglassville; and Good Shepherd Learning Center.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison  
[especially: \_\_\_\_\_]  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed, [especially: \_\_\_\_\_]  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day

*The Deacon says the concluding collect*

Lord, hear the prayers of *your* people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of *your* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

**The Peace**

*The Deacon says to the people:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*And also with you*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prayer For a Birthday – BCP p.830 #50**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer For those we Love (if Anniversaries) – BCP p.831 #54**

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Offertory Sentence**

You may give on-line at [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org) or by texting BREAD to 73256.  
Thank you for your generous financial support!

### **Offertory: Adult Choir Anthem (or Hymnal #490)**

**Doxology: Hymnal #380 v.3** *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 Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament**

### **The Sentence**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

*People and Deacon*



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.

*Facing the people, the Deacon says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

+We welcome all to come forward for communion. Tell an usher if you need communion at your  
pew+

+ We have gluten-free wafers available+

**Communion: Hymnal #664**

*My Shepherd (vs.1,2)*

1 My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name; in pastures fresh he makes me feed  
beside the living stream. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads  
me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay; one word of thy supporting  
breath drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread; my  
cup with blessings overflows, thy oil anoints my head.

**The Post Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Deacon says*

Let us pray.

*Deacon and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **The Dismissal**

*All standing in silence the Deacon, dismisses them with these words*

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **Recessional: Hymnal #493                      *O for A Thousand Tongues (vs.1-3)***

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy Name.

3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's  
ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

### **Service Participants**

Officiant: The Rev. John W. Davis, Deacon

Choir Director: Melissa Driscole

Broadcast Media Director: Rick Little

Social Media Director: Barbara Little

Crucifer/Youth Reader: Phoebe Mattes

Reader: Rachel Baidon

Intercessor/Chalice Bearer: John Baidon

Ushers: Emily & Lee Rancier

Altar Guild: Melissa Driscole, Adrien Lambert

Parish Admin: Adrien Lambert