

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday In Lent

March 30, 2014



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A Note on Today's Readings

The Fourth Sunday in Lent—Year A

Welcome to our parish on the Sunday of the Man Born Blind. This gospel reading has been used since early days of the church to help those preparing for baptism understand the process of enlightenment they are going through. In this story, the blind man progresses from the restoration of his physical sight to a deeper enlightenment about God until he is able to recognize Jesus as his Redeemer.

The first reading takes us to the point in the history of salvation when David is chosen by God as king. As is so often the case with the outstanding heroes of the faith, God's choice is not apparent to those who evaluate by human standards. David's anointing is an image of our own baptism in which God chose us and set us apart not for our own merits but because God loves us.

The second reading describes how those who have been baptized and now live in the light will carry on their lives. The final verse may be an ancient Christian baptismal hymn.

We, like the man born blind, are now awake and filled with the Light from Light through our baptism. As we continue in our Lenten pilgrimage toward Easter, enlightened by God's Word and nourished by the sacraments, we find ourselves in the company of a great family of believers. Let us continue to pray for those preparing to be enlightened and anointed in baptism by the Holy Spirit at Easter.

Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Liturgy of the Word

Hymn

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church

Hymnal 149

All standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

The Celebrant says

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

The following is sung, all standing

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

All sit.

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

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

Psalm

Remain seated.

Psalm 23

BCP p. 612

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence

All stand.

From deepest woe I cry to thee

Hymnal 151

Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord

After the Gospel is read, the people respond as follows:

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Myers

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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

All remain standing.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Doug our bishop and Rebecca our minister, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land Barack our President, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Sally, Les, Jeff, Jerry, Barbara, Cody, Jane, Calvin, Bill, Raymond, Elaine, Mary, Elaine, Jack, Linda, Baby Ozzy, Dorothy, Avery, Laci Jo, Ray, June, Pam, Doug & Kaye, Donna, Rob, Juanita and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we pray for those serving in our armed forces especially Sylvestre.

And we pray in thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays this week especially Dawn and Carl.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. John and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

All kneel.

The Celebrant says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence.

Minister and People

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Announcements may be made at this point in the service.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

Worthy art thou, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and by thy will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Offertory Hymn

“Forgive our sins as we forgive”

Hymnal 674

Representatives of the congregation bring the people’s offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | The Lord be with you. |
| <i>People</i> | And with thy spirit. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Lift up your hearts. |
| <i>People</i> | We lift them up unto the Lord. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. |
| <i>People</i> | It is meet and right so to do. |

The Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

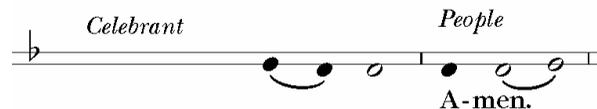
And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.



The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

Hymnal 671

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel and the Celebrant says

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.*

Postcommunion Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

Hymnal 657

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

News & Notes

Rebecca's Schedule: Next week, Rebecca will be Corbin on Thursday, April 3 and her Sabbath day will be Friday, April 4. You can get a message to Rebecca by calling 859 -429-1659 or priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org.

Living Compass: Next Sunday at 10:15, and Wednesday at 4:00, we continue our series on **Living Compass Adult Faith and Wellness**. The next session is titled **All Shall be Well**. You can find more information about the program, including the Living Compass Assessment at <http://www.livingcompass.org/adult/program.html/>

Pot Luck Sunday: Please join us in the Parish Hall following today's service for fun (including four square) and fellowship as we partake of a pot luck meal. All are welcome!

Passion Play: First Baptist Church London presents their annual Passion Play April 13 (10am), 14, 15, 17 (7pm). Call 606-864-4194 for free tickets. Billy Hibbitts and Amber Pearce are singing in this production.

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild invites you to attend a meeting, Saturday, April 5, 9am – Noon. Learn more about this important ministry and how you can assist. **Extra assistance is needed for Holy Week.**

Flowers for the altar: Donations are being accepted for Easter Flowers. Envelopes are available. Mark whether this is in memoriam or in honor of someone.

Support the Diocesan Ministries online on April 9, as part of Kentucky Gives Day. Reading Camp, Cathedral Domain and St. Agnes' House are participating in the Commonwealth-wide online giving day, Kentucky Gives. Go to <http://kygives.razoo.com/story/Episcopal-Diocese-Of-Lexington> and give to one or to all three ministries.

Belk Charity Sales Day: The Belk Charity Sales Day will be Saturday, May 3rd from 6:00am to 10:00am. Ticket may be purchased for \$5 tickets from our ECW, which allow you entrance to the sale and \$5 off your purchase. We are trying to sell 100 tickets, which provides \$500 for the church and tremendous savings for you!

We're buying goats! The *Lazarus at the Gates* Adult Forum study has prompted us to purchase goats through Episcopal Relief and Development for families in the Philippines. Goats provide milk, cheese, and manure for farming. Donations towards the \$80 purchase of each goat can be made through the goat bank in the parish hall or in the offering plate clearly marked ERD goat project.

Palm Sunday Service: Plan to attend a community-wide Palm Sunday Service, Sunday afternoon, April 13, Grace on the Hill. The service is sponsored by the Southeast Kentucky Ministerial Alliance and Rebecca will be preaching

Godly Play: There will be Godly Play classes this Sunday. If you are interested in assisting with these classes on an occasional basis, please let Anne Day Davis or Dura Anne Price know. You will observe the classes for 4 sessions and once you have received this training, you may be called upon to assist as you are available. Let the children deepen your faith!

Hymn Selection Group If you'd like to choose hymns for services, join this group. You will choose hymns for an upcoming service and then meet with the entire group to confirm the final selections. See Billy Hibbitts if you are interested.

Are you interested in assisting with the Sunday service? Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Crucifers, Altar Guild Members and choir members are all important for each Sunday service. If you're interested in serving, please let Rebecca know by phone 859-429-1659 or priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org.

Serving Our Neighbors – See baskets in the parlor.

- Everlasting Arms, Corbin's shelter for people who are homeless, is in need of men's and women's razors, gloves, deodorant and socks.
- The Food Pantry at Corbin Presbyterian Church is always in need of nonperishable food items. Vegetables are especially appreciated.

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