

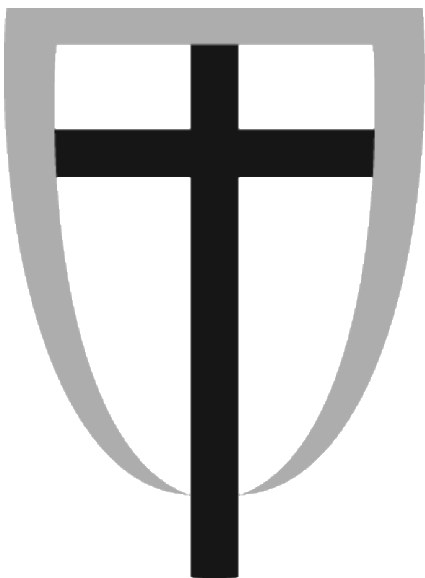
HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE II

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 19, 2023

5:00 p.m.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BATON ROUGE, LA

Thank you for worshipping with us, today. This order of service for our liturgy — meaning “work of the people” — is meant to help you participate as fully as you desire. As one is able, we sit to listen to the scripture and the sermon, and we stand to sing, recite the Nicene Creed or Baptismal Covenant, and hear the Gospel proclaimed. When it comes to prayer, both standing and kneeling are ancient and accepted practices, so please feel free to stand or kneel during our prayers, as you are able. Before we begin, it is our custom to observe quiet for prayer and meditation. Please silence any electronic devices. Congregational responses are printed in boldface type.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent is often called Laetare Sunday. The title Laetare—Latin for “rejoice” or “be glad”— encourages a temporary lightening of Lent’s penitence, with the joyous Feast of the Resurrection within view. As with the Third Sunday of Advent, rose vestments are customarily used as a physical symbol of the day’s meaning.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

All kneel

The Decalogue

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not commit murder.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not steal.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

The Summary of the Law

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these."

The Confession of Sin

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 Absolution

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.**

Kyrie eleison

Celebrant Lord have mercy.

People **Christ have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

The people are seated for the lessons.

The First Reading *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

Lector A reading from first 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm *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.

The Second Reading *Ephesians 5:8-14*

Lector A reading from Paul's letter 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.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel *John 9:1-41*

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

People **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."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The people are seated for the sermon

The Rev. Christopher R. Duncan

The Nicene Creed

The people 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.

The Prayers of the People *Form IV*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the clergy and people of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Metairie, and for the faculty, staff, and students of St. Augustine's Preschool, Metairie.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Corey, Mary Elizabeth, Joe, Trudy, Antonia, Richard, Fred, Steve, Martha and Annie Cate, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We also pray for expectant mothers, especially Juliet, Alexis, Caroline, Vicki, Jane, Charlotte, Martha, and Ashley, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving you in all things, may rejoice in your providence. We thank you, Lord, for the birth of Luke William Saccardi, Thomas Bourgeois, III, and Thomas Anthony Rhodes.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Bobby McCall, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The people may add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome & Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving: *Eucharistic Prayer D*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks...and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love...and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us...through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **Grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

The Postcommunion Prayer

The people may stand or kneel

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 Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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