

## Morning Prayer

*Officiant* Jesus said: “If any of you would come after me,  
deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me.” *Mark 8:34*

### Confession of Sin

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept*

*Officiant* God of all mercy,  
*All* 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.  
Amen.

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the  
grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power  
of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*People* Amen.

### The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

*People* And your glory all the day long.

*Officiant and People*

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

## Invitatory Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God; \*

you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, \*

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \*

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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.

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.

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.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, \*

and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, \*

and will be for ever. Amen.

## 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  
People*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
Thanks be to God.

Though in the form of God, \*  
Christ Jesus did not cling to e-quality with God,  
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, \*  
and was born in human likeness.  
Being found in human form, he humbled himself \*  
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.  
Therefore, God has highly exalted him \*  
and given him the name above every name,  
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, \*  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, \*  
to the glory of God the Father.

### A Reading from 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.”

*Reader*  
*People*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Drew Downs

# The Apostles Creed

(BCP, p. 96)

*Officiant and People together*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Officiant* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant & People*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## Suffrages A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

## The Collect of the Day

*Officiant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## A Collect for Guidance

O Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Intercessions *adapted from Ormonde Plater*

*Officiant* Jesus anointed the eyes of the man born blind. As we prepare for the paschal feast, let us earnestly beseech God to give new sight to all peoples everywhere.

*Officiant* For the holy catholic church in every place,  
sharing the death and resurrection of Christ:  
God of love,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For the sick, for the victims of COVID-19, and for all persons and  
institutions affected by the disease:

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the dying and the dead:

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love.

Remember those celebrating baptismal anniversaries:

especially Leona Taylen,

our postulant Joanna Benskin,

and those who have asked our prayers:

Sheila, Sally, Ray, Linda, Robin, Megan, Richard, Lorna,

Jonnee, Terry, John, Lane, Martha, Ellie, Mike, Jean,

and the Paradowski Family:

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**



Blessed are you, God of Samuel and David, who gives us the light of the world in Jesus the Anointed One. Receive the prayers we offer this day for those in need in every place and anoint the head of all who come to your table; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The General Thanksgiving

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*Officiant* May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing  
through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

*People* **Amen.**