



Morning Prayer for The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Vision Statement

To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, and social action.

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Avenue
Studio City, California 91604

Our Mission Priority

Our mission priority is to focus on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.

Morning Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer Worship - Morning Prayer.

Prelude *Psalm-Prelude, Set 1, No. 3* Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
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 comfort me. Psalm 23:4

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

Processional Hymn 533

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!
their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?
thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,

Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.
till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

Leader Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Leader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Leader 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.

Invitatory and Psalter

Leader Lord, open our lips.
People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.

Leader The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Leader The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

Let us pray Psalm 23 together

- 1 The Holy One is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- 2 You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.
- 3 You revive my soul
and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.
- 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 God 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.

The Lessons

The First Reading

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.

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

Canticle 9 - The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
 I will trust in him and not be afraid.
 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
 and he will be my Savior.
 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
 from the springs of salvation.
 And on that day you shall say, *
 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
 Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
 see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
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.

The Second Reading

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.”

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

Canticle 21 - You Are God

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you;
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

Sequence Hymn 168

1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.

The Third Reading

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."

Leader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Homily

The Reverend Daniel Justin

The Apostles' Creed

People

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

People 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 Suffrages

The Leader says the Versicle and the People say the Response

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

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.

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People Amen.

The Prayers of the People

- Leader* In our baptism we have been called to rise from the dead and to live with Christ in the Spirit of God. Bonded to the whole people of God in baptism, let us pray for the church and for all people in their need, saying: Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For the whole church throughout the world, its bishops, clergy, and all the baptized, let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For those who are preparing for baptism, and for their teachers and sponsors, let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For peace among the nations and forbearance among all people, let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For this assembly as we walk the road toward the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For our many outreach partners and ministries. Today we especially pray for the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, the NoHo Home Alliance, Episcopal Relief and Development's "One Thousand Days of Love" campaign, and for the multicultural ministries of the Diocese of Los Angeles. Let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For the weary and the sick, and for those who are consumed with sorrow. For those who have asked for our prayers, especially Rhett Dupke & the Dupke Family, Peer Ghent, Jared Lipscomb, Mike Mason, Julie Meine, Robert Meine, Marian, James & Kathleen Quinlan, the Somerville Family, all undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers, especially children and those waiting in Mexico under dangerous conditions, all who are experiencing homelessness and those facing financial insecurity, and those who have asked for our prayers but prefer to remain anonymous. Let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* For all the departed who had the mind of Christ and were humble servants of God. Today we remember Sami Bradley, Peggy Cochrane, and William Feeder. For ourselves, that we may be obedient even unto death, let us pray to the Lord.
People Lord, have mercy.
- Leader* Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
People Amen.
- Leader* Let us pray for all those affected by the coronavirus.
People Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

- 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.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

Recessional Hymn 690

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, shield, thee, feed me now and be thou still I will ev - er give to thee. ev - er - more. strength and shield. thee.

Leader Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Postlude *Canzona in D minor, BWV 588* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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Prayers of the People: *Intercessions for the Christian People*. The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN. 1988

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What I Did Not Preach On

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Dear St. Michael's,

Who's in command here? Take me to your leader! I would like to see the manager. We like to look for someone who is in charge, especially when things start to go wrong. What good is it to speak with someone who does not have the authority to make a difference? We want to deal with the highest level of authority. And we certainly want whoever is in charge to be capable. Leaders should be credible, talented, skilled, shrewd, savvy, and wise. They must be able to rise to the challenge. Therefore, candidates for the position should be interviewed, show the correct credentials, complete appropriate training, and have applicable experience.

Perhaps that is why 1 Samuel 16:1-13, which I did not preach on this week, is always so surprising. God has had enough of King Saul, who failed to follow God's commands. The prophet Samuel has been instructed to travel to Bethlehem where God will provide a new king. It almost sounds like Samuel is the sole judge for some kind of ancient beauty pageant. Each of Jesse's sons parades past the prophet, allowing him to get a good look. Eliab, the eldest son, is tall and impressive, much like Saul was before him. Abinadab and Shammah take their turn on the runway. Ultimately seven of Jesse's sons are presented, yet none of them are selected.

Samuel is as surprised as everyone else that God did not choose any of these impressive young men to be king. He was certain God had commanded him to come to this city and start this selection process. In fact, he even had to overcome his own terror at the idea of doing this. Saul was still king. Samuel was rightfully concerned that Saul would seek to do him harm rather than allow a new king to be selected. Nonetheless, God did not pick any of the seven sons Jesse had presented. Samuel asks, "Are all your sons here?" And Jesse said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep."

No person in their right mind would select the youngest boy in the family whose only experience was keeping sheep. I suppose that is why the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts and God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). God tells Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature...for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outwards appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Against all odds, the Lord chooses a lowly shepherd boy to be the next king of Israel. Stunning.

We read in the Bible over and over again how God chooses the least likely candidates to lead. That motif presents itself as often as it does because it reinforces that God is really the one in charge. Our reading from 1 Samuel today is paired with the 23rd Psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The least likely leader is chosen because it reminds us that God is at work through these unlikely people. God is our shepherd. The Lord is our king.

St. Michael's, I am not sure about you, but this truth always gives me hope. God is ultimately in charge. And God empowers us and uses us to accomplish God's purposes in the world. It does not matter if we feel as if we are the least likely, least qualified, or least equipped to serve in God's kingdom. God will provide the strength and ability we need. That means we can all go ahead and jump in with both feet, trusting God to be our help; trusting God to accomplish what God wants to accomplish. We can make ourselves available, offering what we have to offer, believing that the Lord is our shepherd.

Blessings,

Dan+