

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2014

Morning Prayer - Rite II

9:30 am

Prelude

Voluntary on "Houston"

Robert J. Powell

At the tolling of the bell, all stand.

Opening Hymn

I want to walk as a child of the light

Hymnal 490

The Officiant says an Opening Sentence

If we say 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

All kneel.

The Officiant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister 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 Priest stands and says

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.**

Invitatory and Psalter

All stand.

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

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.

Officiant

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

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord

Hymnal S 35

1. Come, let us sing to the

Lord; — let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal -

va - tion. — 2. Let us come be - fore his pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing —

— and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. — 3. For the

Lord is a great God, — and a great King a - bove all
 gods. — 4. In his hand are the cav-erns of the earth, —
 — and the heights of the hills are his al - so. — 5. The
 sea is his, for he made it, — and his hands have
 mold - ed the dry land. — 6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the
 knee, — and kneel be-fore the Lord our Ma - ker. — 7. For
 he is our God, — and we are the peo-ple of his
 pas - ture — and the sheep of his hand. —
 — Oh, that to - day you would heark-en to his voice! —

The people are seated

Psalm 23 *Spoken (please remain standing)*

- 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.

After the Psalm, all say together

**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.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

The people are seated.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are 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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Surely it is God who saves me

Hymnal 679

Dramatic Reading of the Gospel *(The people remain seated)*

John 9:1-41

Narrator: A reading from the Gospel of John.

Narrator: As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

Disciples: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "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."

Narrator: 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,

Jesus: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"

Narrator: (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,

Neighbors: "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

Narrator: Some were saying,

Neighbors: "It is he."

Narrator: Others were saying,

Neighbors: "No, but it is someone like him."

Narrator: He kept saying,

Man Born Blind: "I am the man."

Narrator: But they kept asking him,

Neighbors: "Then how were your eyes opened?"

Narrator: He answered,

Man Born Blind: "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."

Narrator: They said to him,

Neighbors: "Where is he?"

Narrator: He said,

Man Born Blind: "I do not know."

Narrator: 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,

Man Born Blind: "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees said,

Pharisees (Group 1): "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."

Narrator: But others said,

Pharisees (Group 2): "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

Pharisees: "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

Narrator: He said,

Man Born Blind: "He is a prophet."

Narrator: 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,

Pharisees: "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

Narrator: His parents answered,

Parents: "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."

Narrator: 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,

Pharisees: "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

Narrator: He answered,

Man Born Blind: "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Narrator: They said to him,

Pharisees: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

Narrator: He answered them,

Man Born Blind: "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?"

Narrator: Then they reviled him, saying,

Pharisees: "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."

Narrator: The man answered,

Man Born Blind: "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."

Narrator: They answered him,

Pharisees: "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?"

Narrator: And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

Jesus: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Narrator: He answered,

Man Born Blind: "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

Narrator: He said,

Man Born Blind: "Lord, I believe."

Narrator: And he worshiped him. Jesus said,

Jesus: "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

Pharisees: "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Narrator: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Lord God, you now have set your servant free

Hymnal 499

Apostles' Creed

All stand.

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.

Prayers

All remain standing.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

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.

The Officiant and People say responsively

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.

Collect of the Day

The Officiant then says

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 Collect for Sundays

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. ***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. ***Amen.***

Intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

The Officiant concludes with this prayer

All these prayers we offer you, O Lord, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The text is provided for those who would like to reflect on it during the anthem.

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine for ever.
 Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
 and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
 and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
 thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.
 Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
 and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
 And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never:
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

Presentation Hymn

From all that dwell below the skies

Hymnal 380 (Stanza 3)

*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
 him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye
 heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

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 Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant

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.** - 2 Corinthians 13:14

Hymn

Amazing Grace

Hymnal 671

Welcome Filippa Duke and Introduction to the Rev. Dr. David Schlafer for today's "Fifth Sunday" Presentation.

The Rev. Dr. David J. Schlafer is an Episcopal priest who has taught philosophy, theology, and homiletics at a number of seminaries in different denominational traditions. He currently focuses professional energy as a conference leader and preaching consultant across the United States and in England. Author and editor of eighteen books, he contributes regularly to professional journals in homiletics.

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