



## Order of Service for March 12, 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Mothering / Laetare Sunday  
Holy Eucharist

9:30 am

Officiating: the Rev'd Dr. Norman Knowles

Assisting: the Rev'd Betty Nadurak



## THANKFUL ALWAYS?

*...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

*Can you be grateful for everything that has happened in your life – not just the good things but for all that brought you to today? It was the pain of a Son that created a family of people known as Christians. That's the mystery of God.  
(Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Community*, 12)*

Our focus this week is on experiencing joy in the **midst of pain: "give thanks in all circumstances,"** Paul says. What was Paul thinking? How can we possibly be grateful for the painful things that make our lives miserable? How can we be gracious about being hurt or betrayed by someone we respected and trusted? How can we be thankful when we hear a devastating diagnosis for ourselves or a loved one?

When we look back months or even years later, we can often see ways that we grew in our faith, as well as our sensitivity to the needs of others, through our times of pain and heartache. Our shared suffering and struggles often bring us closer together with our loved ones and our sisters and brothers in Christ.

When we look back 2000 years, we remember well all of the physical torment and spiritual agony that Jesus endured for us and for our salvation. Day by day, we can experience his healing and renewing presence and power. And we live with the assurance that **his perfect peace awaits us beyond the grave. That's the mystery of God's grace.**

*Compassionate Savior, help us see that the pain we've experienced can help us be a more compassionate companion to those experiencing similar types of anguish. Amen.*



# Service of Holy Eucharist

## The Gathering of the Community

**Pre-Service Music:** Red Songbook (RSB) #207 Lord We Come to Ask Your Healing  
(Please join in this time of worship, as we prepare for the Service.)

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn:** Common Praise (Blue Book—CP) #484 In Christ There is No East or West (screens)

**Greeting:** BAS, p. 230 (Book of Alternative Services - Green Book) (screens)

**Collect for Purity** (screens)

**The Summary of the Law** (screens)

**Trisagion x3** (screens)

**Collect of the Day** (screens)

### **Children's Talk**

## The Proclamation of the Word

### **The First Reading**

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.

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 23** p. 731 (screens)

### **The Second Reading**

For 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."

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

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

**Gradual Hymn:** CP #519 The Lord's My Shepherd (screens)

### **The Holy Gospel**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And with thy spirit.*

**Leader:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

As he 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 neighbours 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 be-

come 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 worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement 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."

JOHN 9:1-41

**Leader:** The Gospel of Christ.  
**People:** *Praise to thee, O Christ.*

**Homily**

**Apostles' Creed (screens)**

**The Prayers of the People**

(Please sit or kneel for the prayers.)

**Lenten Litany** p. 121(screens)

**Confession and Absolution (screens)**

**The Peace (screens)**

**The Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Offertory:** RSB #141 I Cannot Tell (screens)  
(For ways to give please see our website)

**Prayer over the Gifts (screens)**

**Eucharistic Prayer A:** p. 241 (screens)

**The Lord's Prayer (screens)**

**The Breaking of the Bread:** p. 246 (screens)

**The Communion (screens)**

**Agnus Dei** p. 247 (screens)

**Communion Hymns:** (screens) RSB # 198 Lord, Be Glorified;  
RSB # 114 Here I am Lord; RSB # 4 A Shield About Me

**Hymn after Communion** (Please stand.): RSB # 47 Children of the Light (screens)

**Prayer after Communion (screens)**

**Blessing**

**Announcements (screens)**

**Closing Hymn:** RSB # 37 Bind Us Together (screens)

**Sending (screens)**

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You're invited to join us for Coffee, right after the Service, in-person in the Hall; and/or at 11:45, online via Zoom. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87399496922?pwd=eWxvZDdTYUVuNjZdUZ4MjFHWFdQdz09>. We'd love to share these times of fellowship with you!

Reserved Sacrament can be picked up from the Office on Tuesday to Thursday from 9 am to noon. If you are not partaking during the Service, a written copy of the "Prayer for Communion" is available on our website in the same location as this Order of Service.

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**Traditional Land Acknowledgement**

**Creator, you made all people of every land. In the spirit of respect and truth, we honour the traditional Treaty 7 territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, including the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani Nations, the Stoney Nakoda, including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley Nations, and the Tsuu T'ina Nation. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region Three. In the spirit of reconciliation and because we are all treaty people, we also acknowledge all people who make their homes in the traditional Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta.**



**"I used to be blind, now I can see!"**  
**John 9:25**

## **Prayers for this Week**

*(bold italics indicate new or special emphasis this week)*

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the **Anglican Church of Southern Africa**.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Prayer Cycle: In the Anglican Church we pray for **Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Montreal**; in the Lutheran Church we pray for the **Assistant to the Bishop and the staff of the Manitoba – Northwestern Ontario Synod**; and jointly we pray for the **elimination of racial discrimination**.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for our parish of **St. Leonard-on-the-Hill, Red Deer, The Mission of St. Paul, Hillsdown and St. George, Harmattan**; and the clergy **Chris Roth, Barb Borle (Hon.), and Ethel English (Hon.)**.

**We lift to you** our friends, in our Companion Diocese, the Windward Islands.

In our Parish Cycle, we pray today for **Jennifer, Graham, Liam and Riley; Gail; Kathleen, Jillian and Jacob; Karl, Stefanie, Karter and Kyra**; and for our clergy **Fergus Tyson, Norman Knowles, Betty Nadurak, and Cyril Haynes, and their families**.

**We pray for our foster child** Desta Keweti.

**Heavenly Father**, giver of life and health, comfort and strengthen those of our parish who are sick, injured or distressed, and those approaching or recovering from surgery, especially we lift up to you: **Robbie; Patrick**; Irma (mother of Rick); Stephen & Gloria; Chris; Julia; Verna; Barb; Terry; Dennis; Sheila; Peggy; Bob & Joanne; Gwen; Jacqueline; Margaret; Marlene; Fergus, Gail & Alyssa; Debra; Irma & Cyril; and Michael; Sandra. **For those grieving**: Max; Alison, Lars & Ellie. **We thank you** for your healing touch, which sustains us every day; and for all the many healings that have taken place in our parish; and your unending mercy as you hear our prayers

**We pray for** containment of COVID-19 worldwide; actions guided by the safety of others; protection for all those on the front lines or especially vulnerable to its effects, in particular all who are homeless; and full restoration of health for all those who are ill. We also pray especially that our healthcare workers and healthcare system will not be overwhelmed by the number of cases of the virus. And we pray especially for all in our Parish who are sick with this virus. Please enable us to support them in any way they need.

**We pray for all those whose lives have been thrown in turmoil** by storms, floods, fires, famine, or other climate disasters. We remember all who are struggling economically. Please help us all to stand together in hard times.

**We pray for** the Indigenous Peoples of this land. We give thanks for the immeasurable privilege of sharing the journey of life together.

**We pray for** forgiveness for the terrible harm inflicted by Residential Schools, and for the racism that still infects our hearts and is an open wound in our country; for an end to all forms of prejudice and bigotry; for justice; for reconciliation, and new paths forward that respect and honour all of God's precious children.

**We pray for** peace and justice in our own country and throughout the world. We remember the people of Ukraine, the Holy Land, USA, Nigeria, and all whose lives have been torn apart by violence. We pray for safe haven for the over 80 million people in the world whom violence has forced to flee their homes. **We stand in** solidarity with all whose lives have been devastated by human evil, and all seeking to make the world as it ought to be. **We pray for** protection and guidance for all in law enforcement or our military in danger at home or overseas. May your Holy Spirit guide world leaders to seek just resolutions to all conflicts, that all people may come to know your peace that passes all understanding and war be no more.

