

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 19, 2023

Hymns

490  
429  
692  
533

*THE HOLY EUCHARIST*

*Many parishioners arrive to church early to prepare for worship through silent prayer and reflection. This is also a time when worshipers review the week's scripture readings and notices. Please be considerate of those near you during this meditative period of our worship together.*

*Please take this lesson insert home with you  
to study the lessons during the week  
and to keep abreast of upcoming events*

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*THE COLLECT OF THE DAY*

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 LESSONS*

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

*A Reading from the First Book of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 23 - chanted by the choir.*

- 1 The Lord is my Shepherd, \*  
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture \*  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul,  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness  
for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yeah 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.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me,  
against them that trouble me, \*  
thou hast anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me,  
all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*The Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14*

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."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41*

*All stand, as they are able.*

The ☩ Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.  
**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### *TODAY'S MUSIC*

Sequence Hymn No. 490

Anthem: *My Eyes for Beauty Pine*

Presentation Hymn No. 429

Communion Hymn No. 692

Closing Hymn No. 533

*Houston*

Elizabeth Coxhead

*Old 113th*

*The Third Tune*

*Lyons*

Voluntary:

*The Third Tune*

setting, Gerald Near

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### *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

#### **Reminders TODAY:**

- Children & Family Eucharist, 5 p.m.

#### **Reminders THIS WEEK:**

- Monday - St. Thomas Night Out, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday - Silence/Meditation, 11:15 a.m.; Mass, noon
- Thursday - Lunch in Community, noon

**Please consider sponsoring Easter Flowers or Easter Brass** by filling out the insert in the bulletin & dropping it off in the plate or the office.

**K Drive Greenhouse Voucher Sale:** It's time to think spring! The choir is selling vouchers for \$20. See any choir member to place your order.

**The Ongoing Lenten Discussion** centering on various RenewalWorks topics continues today at noon in the parish hall. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you haven't yet attended. Bread and cheese will be offered, and printed materials are available.

**Community Luncheons:** Please join us as we continue to nurture one another in community. Luncheons will be held on March 9 & 23 from noon-1 p.m. in the lounge. Soup and bread will be provided.

**Transition:** If you know a priest who might be interested in serving St Thomas as Interim Rector, please contact Transition Team chairperson: Franz Schirk ([franz.schirk@gmail.com](mailto:franz.schirk@gmail.com)).

**Next Sunday's Lessons:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**For a listing of the coming week's activities see the tan sheet in the hallway or check out our website at: [www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)**

***SERVING THIS WEEK:***

10:00 a.m.

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Presider:       | The Rev. Rick Stravers             |
| Preacher:       | The Rev. Rick Stravers             |
| Deacon:         | The Rev. Trish Harris              |
| Sub-Deacon:     | Jodi Nickerson                     |
| Lector:         | Kathy Dingwall                     |
| Intercessor:    | Sharon & Mark Engle                |
| Crucifer:       | Mark Olmstead                      |
| Chalice:        | The Rev. Trish Harris & Lori Kiess |
| Altar Chapter:  | Brenda Hillman, Heather Wiley      |
| Ushers:         | Ken Surprenant, Joe Cummins        |
| Vestry Liaison: | Megan Phelan                       |
| A/V Tech:       | Laurel Stravers                    |

5:00 p.m.

|                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Presider:      | The Rev. Rick Stravers |
| Lector:        | The children           |
| Altar Chapter: | Brenda Hillman         |

