

## March 22, 2020 • 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

(Note – The congregation’s spoken parts are in **bold type**.)

Prelude “Prelude on Brother James’s Air” by Searle Wright                      Mrs. Kay Guiles

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us. Amen.

### GREETING

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

### CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON)

**The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. Live as children of the light. Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Let us worship God.**

### HYMN #450 “BE THOU MY VISION”

- v.1    Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- v.2    Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**
- v.3    Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise: thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- v. 4    High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

**God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We look at outward appearances and fail to see what pleases you. We look with judgment on others and fail to see our own sin. Forgive us, by your steadfast love. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Hear now the silent confessions of our hearts.

And the people of God said, **“Amen.”**

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### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

### GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious and loving God, you know us through and through. Speak to us in the Word read and proclaimed, that in the shelter of your love we may find the courage to face the parched places in our lives and find life in your spring of living water. Amen.

### FIRST READING – PSALM 23

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.*

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

ANTHEM                      “Why Should I Feel Discouraged”                      Mr. Michael Ginn

- v.1     *Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come? Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he: his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. I sing because I'm happy, (I'm happy) I sing because I'm free, (I'm free) for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*
- v.2     *“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear, and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears, though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. I sing because I'm happy (I'm happy) I sing because I'm free (I'm free) for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*
- v. 3     *Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free: his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he*

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*watches me. I sing because I'm happy (I'm happy) I sing because I'm free (I'm free) for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

SECOND READING – JOHN 9:1-41

Mr. Tommy Suttle

*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 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?"<sup>11</sup> 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*

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

SERMON

"Seeing is Believing"

Mr. Tommy Suttle

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to the judge quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN #795 "HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL"

Refrain *Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.*

v.1 *You know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness; Spirit  
of all comfort, fill our hearts.*

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- R *Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*
- v. 2 *In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love.*
- R. *Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*
- v. 3 *Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother, Spirit of kindness, be our guide.*
- R *Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*
- v. 4 *You know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing; Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.*
- R. *Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### CALL FOR OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY "CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER" BY DALE WOOD

#### DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

**God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.**

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HYMN #662 "CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES"

- v.1 *Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.*
- v.2 *Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see; till thy inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.*
- v.3 *Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.*

### CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the Lord guide you always, satisfying your hunger and thirst in this dry and weary land. **Amen.**

We urge you, on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. **Amen.**

Postlude "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing" by Alfred Fedak