

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023 | 5:00 PM | THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition

This liturgy is adapted from "A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season" by Elizabeth Grover.



The people's response is in bold.

A PENITENTIAL LITANY

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

His mercy endures for ever.

Christ who died for our sins, forgive the penitent.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ who shared our griefs, comfort the sorrowing.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ who thirsted on the cross, bring relief to the hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ forsaken by all, be with the lonely and the sad.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ mocked and scorned, support the outcasts and rejected.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ who suffered great pain, be a strength to the weak.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ who died for us all, grant us your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ crucified, done to death, and buried, give us hope.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ who descended into hell, raise us to glory.

Lord, have mercy.

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

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

We will light a light in the name of the Maker
The God of wisdom and the Author of all peace.
We will light a light in the name of Christ
Jesus whose life modeled radical peace.
We will light a light in the name of the Spirit
The Holy One who brings us peace and comfort.

A PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. God of all peace, whose Spirit fills our hearts, be with us as we seek to share your peace that surpasses human understanding, that those whom we encounter on this earthly journey may see in our lives the reflection of your love; in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

It was that lonely day, folks,
When I walked all by myself.
My friends was all around me
But it was as if they'd left.
I went up on a mountain
In a high cold wind
And the coat that I was wearing
Was mosquito-netting thin.
I went down in the valley
And I crossed an icy stream
And the water I was crossing

Crossing

Langston Hughes

Was no water in a dream
And the shoes I was wearing
No protection for that stream.
Then I stood out on a prairie
And as far as I could see
Wasn't nobody on that prairie
Looked like me.
It was that lonely day, folks,
I walked all by myself:
My friends was right there with me
But was just as if they'd left.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.

THE HOMILY

There will be a pause for silent reflection immediately following the homily.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant We pray now for the needs of all people throughout the world, remembering that God offers comfort and peace to all creatures.

Intercessor We bless you and thank you, O God, for you have filled creation with the glory of life. For the light of the day and the darkness of night, for the sky, sea, and earth; and for the goodness that grows from the land, which nourishes us and brings us life.

People **We give thanks to you, O Lord**

Intercessor In remembering with thanks the times and places of plenty and well-being in our lives, we stand also in prayer with all who are denied these things, and we ask that all people not be forsaken in time of trouble.

People **Do not forsake us, O Lord.**

Intercessor Let the cry of the poor be heard, O God, in heaven and on earth; let the hungry be fed and the oppressed be set free.

People **Do not forsake us, O Lord.**

Intercessor Let those in our community who are sick or suffering know healing in body and soul. *Additional prayers may be added.*

O God of all peace,

People **Do not forsake us, O Lord.**

Intercessor Welcome those who have died, comfort those who mourn them.

Additional prayers may be added.

O God of all hope,

People **Do not forsake us, O Lord.**

Intercessor Let nations at war cease their strife, neighbors in conflict stop their arguments, and loved ones find peace at home.

People **Do not forsake us, O Lord.**

Celebrant Look, Lord, on your children, who love your name and need your care and your comfort. Let our hands bear your love to the world that all may know your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.

Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us.

Let us share it.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App. (Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system located here:

<https://redeemercy.tpsdb.com/Give/offering> There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In life and in death may we be an offering to you for ever. God from whom all life comes forth, here we gather again with bread and with wine, seeking your presence, and your peace, longing once more to be nourished. We hunger for wholeness in our lives, for unity on earth and for peace among the nations. And we know that only in your love can such peace and unity be found. So with all that we are and all that we have, we join with all of creation as we sing your praises:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is your Son, Jesus, who came to heal and bring wholeness by the forgiveness of sins. In life and in death, he revealed your glory; in life and in death he awakens in us the hope that all powers of evil will fall and that your love will reign. On the night before he suffered, Jesus took bread and, lifting it up and giving thanks to you, he blessed it, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take and eat this, for this is my body which is given for you." Then he took the cup, blessed the wine and gave it to them, saying: "Take and drink this, for this cup is my blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you do these things, you shall remember me." And so, Lord, we offer to you these gifts. We call now on your Holy Spirit to bless them – the holy bread of life and the cup of eternal blessing – and to make them be for us the food of heaven, the body and blood of our savior Jesus Christ.

Accept with them the sacrifice of our hearts that all who share in this bread and this cup may be blessed in your love and that through this love, we may be instruments of your peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Broken bread, poured out wine, signs of Christ's self-giving;
Broken bread, poured out wine, food for the human soul;
Broken bread, poured out wine, sacrifice for the world's peace.

THE SHARING OF A HOLY MEAL

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, for calling us together this evening and for sustaining us with this holy meal. This place is sacred, this time is sacred, and in the sacredness we have shared a mystery. May we in every place and time recognize the sacredness of life and may we accept the mystery as we accept your love – with joyful faith and eternal hope; in Christ's name. Amen.

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst.

But we will carry the light in our hearts and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The flowers that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in celebration for the lives of Helen & Ewart Simpkinson by Janet & John Simpkinson and in memory of Harry S. Robinson II by Betsy & Tom Schram.



VISION STATEMENT

We have a vision of a worshipping community that **knows Jesus and grows in love:**

- **United** in relationships of holy connection and communion;
- **Growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion;
- **Inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us;
- **Sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Philip DeVaul
Lector Gordon Christenson
Lay Reader
Intercessor Robin Henderson
Celtic Guild Pam Popp
Bread Guild Audrey Sesler
Altar Guild Kelli Wisecup, Brian Weinewuth, Patricia Kovach, Sheila Maxwell
Flower Guild Francie Morrison, Anna Kamphaus, Courtney Vice, Lynne Zajac