

Muddy Eyes by Jan Richardson



Church of the Holy Trinity

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020
9:30am

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore the Lord our God.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence

Minister and People together:

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

VENITE

Psalm 95:1-7

For you are a great God; *

you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, *

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. *

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God,* as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

SONG

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
Name's sake.**

Yea, 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, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of

mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE LESSON: John 9:1-41

Narrator: One day as Jesus was walking 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?”

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: Then he went and washed and came back able to see. His neighbors and others who knew him asked each other, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said he was, and others said, “No, he just looks like him!” But the beggar kept saying,

Man: Yes, I am the same one.

Narrator: But they kept asking him . . . Then how were your eyes opened?

Man: The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.

Narrator: “Where is he now,” they asked.

Man: I do not know.

Narrator: Then they brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind because it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them:

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

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how can an ordinary man who is a sinner perform such miraculous signs?” And there was a deep division among them. Then the pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded: “What do *you* say about him? It was *your* eyes he opened.

Man: He is a prophet.

Narrator: The Jewish leaders still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight. So 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?”

Narrator: 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 Jewish leaders, who had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That’s why 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, “God should get glory for this!

We **know** that this man Jesus is a **sinner**.”

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

Narrator: The Pharisees asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

Man: 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, “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.

Man: 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: And the pharisees said, “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

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

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

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

Man: Lord, I believe.

Narrator: And he worshiped him. Then 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, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE APOSTLES CREED (*said together*)

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.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 for ever. Amen.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

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.**

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR MISSION

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

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

CLOSING:

“The Lord said not 'Thou shalt not be tempested, thou shalt not be travailed, thou shalt not be dis-eased'; but he said, 'Thou shalt not be overcome.' All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the blessing of God rest upon you, Christ's peace go with you, and the discernment of the Spirit guide your steps today and always. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God