

## Ephesians 5: 8-14

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), <sup>10</sup>finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup>But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. <sup>14</sup>Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,  
Arise from the dead,  
And Christ will give you light.”



March 19, 2023

## Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## St John 9: 1-41

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. <sup>7</sup> And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup> Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” <sup>9</sup> Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup> Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.” <sup>12</sup> Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.” <sup>13</sup> They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” <sup>18</sup> But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. <sup>19</sup> And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup> Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.” <sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! <sup>31</sup> Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. <sup>32</sup> Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” <sup>36</sup> He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” <sup>37</sup> And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” <sup>38</sup> Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. <sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” <sup>40</sup> Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.”

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EARLY IN LENT

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!** Glory to God.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard

your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen**