

Lent 4A

March 22, 2020

St. Thomas Anglican Church

Home Prayers
A Form of Prayer for Groups or Families



The Preparation

A candle or candles placed on the table or in the worship area may be lit. A plain cross by the candle on the table is appropriate. The one who lights them says one of the following:

Jesus said, "And if I am lifted up, I will draw the whole world to myself."

WE WILL TAKE UP OUR CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Almighty God, by the suffering of your Son you have brought hope to the whole world. Help us in our trials and be the strength of our human weakness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

This hymn may be sung. Tune: Tallis's Canon

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,

the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God
who dwells in the eternal light.
Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heaven adored.

Trisagion (said x3)

CP 707

**HOLY GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY, HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

The Collect

**Creator and Healer, YOU WORK YOUR SABBATH WILL IN THE CHAOS OF OUR LIFE:
TEACH US THE INSIGHT THAT GIVES TRUE JUDGEMENT AND PRAISES YOU WHEREVER YOU ARE
FOUND, MAKING MIRACLES FROM SPIT AND MUD; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF EARTH.
AMEN.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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.

Hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us today: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2 YOU MAKE ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES AND LEAD ME BESIDE STILL WATERS.

3 You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I SHALL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR YOU ARE WITH ME; YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 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.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

Second Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14

For 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."

Hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us today: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel:

John 9:1-41

The Lord be with you: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: **GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS 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 Christ. **PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

Devotional

(pause for reflections)

Fr. Allen Doerksen

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE.
LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR
MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
THIS IS THE FIRST AND THE GREAT COMMANDMENT.
THE SECOND IS LIKE IT:
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF. THERE IS NO COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.**

Intercessions

Let us pray together to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Loving God, we thank you for your many gifts to us, for the love which brings us together, for the earth which provides for our needs, for the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray to you for our Christian family, especially for our congregation of St. Thomas and for our diocese of New Westminster, for all people around the world, and for grace to grow in your love. **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Almighty God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace during this time of uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. Grant to us, your children, a consciousness of your presence and a strong confidence in your love. Surround us with your care and protect us by your loving might. **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray to you for our world, for all its cares and needs, and for all who lead us and care for us, for those in authority dealing with this pandemic. **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray to you for those in need, for the sick and the lonely, for the hurt and the frightened, and for those who live without hope, especially for Stella, Lily, Allyson, Fran, Henry, Ken, Anne, JD, and Denise. I invite you to name others who are on your mind either silently or out loud. - ***a period of silence*** - Keep them steadfast in hope and trust. **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray for those we love who have died, that you will surround them with your care and love.

We especially pray for those families who are mourning the loss of loved ones from this virus.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray for one another, asking you to bless us, our friends, and relatives. Bless the places where we work, and bless our home and our life together. **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Our Lord God, we thank you for all your blessings, for life and health, for laughter and fun, for all our powers of mind and body, for our homes and the love of dear ones, for everything that is beautiful, good and true.
But above all we thank you for giving your Son to be our Saviour and Friend.
May we always find our true happiness in pleasing you and helping others to know and love you. We offer these prayers to God who knows the secrets of our hearts. **AMEN.**

Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong, the sorrows we have caused, the love we have not shown.

Silence for reflection is kept.

**MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, FORGIVE US OUR SINS AGAINST YOU AND AGAINST EACH OTHER.
STRENGTHEN US TO OVERCOME OUR WEAKNESSES, THAT WE MAY LIVE IN LOVE
AS YOU WOULD HAVE US LIVE, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR. AMEN.**

Fill our hearts, O God, with your Holy Spirit that we may go forth this day in peace and joy, serving you eagerly in all we do, for Jesus' sake. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
**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.**

Conclusion

When your soul whispers of its deepest longings, may you quiet yourself to listen. May you follow the path of yearning to the One who alone blends the uneven edges into a life of meaning. May you meet and be united with God and give thanks for the whispers that led you there. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**