

**Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale**

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**Bulletin for March 22, 2020**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:*** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:*Let us pray.

***All:* 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.**

**The Lessons**

*The congregation sits.*

**First Lesson: I Samuel 16:1-13**

A Reading from the first book of the prophet Samuel.

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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

*Remaining seated, all say together [in unison] the*

**Gradual: Psalm 23** *Dominus regit me*

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; \***

**I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \***

**and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul \***

**and guides me along right pathways for his 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 your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days**

**of my life, \***

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*All remain standing for the reading of the*

**Gospel: John 9:1-41**

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

***People:* 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.”

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*All remain standing for the*

**Prayers of the People**

*Celebrant:* God of wholeness and light, you have called us and made us children of light that we might share in your work of reconciliation and healing: Hear our prayers on behalf of the whole creation, that your goodness and mercy may bring life and freedom to all, as we pray: O God, you are our shepherd; we shall not be in want.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* Gracious and Good God, open the eyes of your Church, and fill us with the vision of Christ, that we may work the works of God while it is day, bringing your light and hope to the world.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Primate; Daniel, our Bishop; Tom, our Priest; for all the baptized in this parish, ministering here and in the world; and for all lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. We give thanks for the parish mission and goals we have discerned and ask that they may guide our congregation as we make plans more fully to carry out God’s call to service for us and build up our life together as Resurrection parish.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* One, anoint for us those whom you would call to leadership and let your divine spirit come mightily upon them, that all who hold power and authority in the world may take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but live as children of light.

We pray for the leaders of the nations of the world, especially Donald, our President, along with members of Congress and the judges of our courts; Tom, our Governor, along with the General Assembly and the Courts in our Commonwealth; the leaders of this Township of Aston, and the leaders of all the townships and boroughs in which we live.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* Loving God, let your compassion reach out in mercy toward all who are oppressed by injustice, violence, poverty, economic distress, illness or natural disaster throughout the world: May your goodness and mercy comfort and relieve them and your strong rod and staff empower them.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* Eternal Wisdom, revive our souls and guide us along right pathways for the sake of your Name as we seek to serve you among our neighbors in this community, that none may be scapegoated or blamed for our own blindness, as we move from darkness to light, discovering the fruit of the spirit in all that is good and right and true.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* Let your works, O Compassionate One, be revealed in those who suffer, especially for those sickened, endangered, or quarantined because of the COVID-19 virus; those endangered by the harsh weather, both in our country and elsewhere; those grieving or menaced by violent acts of hate in our country and around the world; children and families separated or interned at our nation’s borders; those mentioned in our parish’s prayer list, and those we name before You now:

*Silence is kept.*

*The People may offer their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

Anoint their heads with oil and let their cups be filled and running over.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* Help us to find out what is pleasing to you as we offer to you our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, especially George Osborn and Robin Krider as they celebrate their birthdays this week; for John Gallen, Ruth Soule, and Karl Thomas, as we commemorate their baptisms; for Rebecca Chiapetta, as we commemorate her confirmation; for the first responders and health care workers who strive to protect us from dangers to our health, including the COVID-19 virus; for those unemployed, or whose businesses are in distress because of this pandemic; for this parish’s fellowship and its ministry; for the mission you have given us to accomplish, and to which we have dedicated ourselves; and those other blessings we remember before You now:

*Silence is kept.*

*The People may offer their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Leader:* Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil, for you are with us. We entrust to your shepherding arms those who have died, especially those who have died in the Coronovirus pandemic; those killed in mass shootings during the past month, & those we remember before you now:

*Silence is kept.*

*The People may offer their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

May they dwell in the house of God for ever.

O God, you are our shepherd;

***People:* we shall not be in want.**

*Celebrant:* Open our eyes to see your intimate presence in the world about us, that we may awaken and live in your light, O God, to lie down in green pastures and be led beside still waters, all for your love's sake, through Jesus Christ your anointed, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for you live and reign, One God, forevermore.

***People:* Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*As the offerings of money are brought forward and the gifts of bread, wine, and money are offered at the Altar, all say the following*

**Doxology**

All things come of thee, O Lord.

**And of thy own have we given thee.**

*At the conclusion of the Doxology, all remain standing; the Celebrant begins the Eucharistic Prayer.*

**Eucharistic Prayer A (Expansive Language)**

*Celebrant:* God be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

***People:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus**

**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.**

*As the People remain standing, the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**People: AMEN!**

**The Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Translation)** *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 364

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,

we are bold to say,

***All*** **Our Father, who art 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.**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory**

**For ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread** *Wonder, Love and Praise,* Hymn 880, Verse 1

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. This anthem is said.*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**The Invitation**

*The Celebrant, joined by the others distributing, raises the elements and says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

***All:*****Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people.**

**We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed**

**at your table and we lament our distance now.**

**Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples,**

**be known to us in the breaking of the bread,**

**and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church**

**until we can gather together again.**

**We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.**

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Let us bless God.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**