



Holy Eucharist with Confirmation at the Church of St. Paul, Cambria

•4th Sunday in Lent • March 19, 2023 •

Opening Hymn #645

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

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 (*lay reader*)

The first reading is from the First Book of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

- 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.

The Second Reading is from the Letter to the 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.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (9:1-41) Br. Dennis Gibbs
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 Sermon The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby

Post Sermon Music: Michael Greene
"Here is Love Vast as The Ocean"

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate
Presentors come forward with the candidate for Confirmation.

I present this person for Confirmation.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil:

I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do and with God' grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

We will.

Bishop: Let us join with him who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent, and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Let us now pray for this person who has renewed his commitment to Christ.

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself,

and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in this your servant the covenant you made with him at his Baptism. Send him forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before him; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bishop: *The bishop then lays hands on Kris*

Defend, O Lord, you servant Kris with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen**

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over this your servant; let your Holy Spirit ever be with him; and so lead him in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that he may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

God has consecrated us in baptism's gracious waters to be a holy people. That we may be ever anointed with gladness, let us turn to our god in prayer, saying: God of all gladness, have mercy upon us.

(As the Spirit moves you, please take turns reading one or more of the petitions. Please observe a short silence at the indicated times.)

We pray for the church, for an end to division and indignation, for all the people washed

and sent by Christ, and for a renewal of God's fulfilling Spirit: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

We pray for all who beg for life, for all baptismal candidates awaiting the pool of grace, and for hearts of devout faith: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

We pray for all who are called to govern in justice and peace, for an end to all works of darkness, for all the peoples created in God's image, and for a Spirit of wisdom and mercy to rule the mighty: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

We pray for all condemned to die, for all victims of illegal arrest and oppression, for all who are tortured, or their families, and for all who work

for liberation: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

We pray for the forgotten and abandoned, for all who are in anguish, for the guilt-ridden, for all in need of the Spirit, for the sick, the grieving, and the dying, that they may be uplifted: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

For all brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, spouses and families, friends and companions, that there may be love and mutual reverence: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

We pray for those who risk their lives on behalf of others, especially our young people on the field of battle, that they be kept safe and return to their loved ones: God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

We pray for *Susie, Jennifer, Ramsay and Julian.* God of all gladness, **have mercy upon us.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

We praise you, God of our hope, for all the children of light who have gone before us and now stand in your radiant countenance. Give us the light of Christ, that we may leap up in our darkness and rise from death at the last, into the life of gladness in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Greet one another in the Lord's name.

The Holy Communion

Bishop: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Offertory Hymn #686

Bishop: *Prayer over the gifts:*

God of light, your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory. Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Bishop: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 sing S130

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Bishop: Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say (or sing),

People and Celebrant

Sung- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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

Bishop: *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Then may be sung or said

Bishop: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation or other suitable words.

Behold the Christ, in whom we have become a new creation, in whom God is reconciling the world. Blessed are those called to the banquet of the Lamb.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Bishop: O God, may we who have shared in holy things never fail to serve you in your world, and

so come to the fullness of joy, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bishop: Blessing

Announcements/ Introductions

Canon

Mark Hall

Thanksgiving Prayer: We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. Amen.

Closing Hymn 488

Dismissal: *Br. Dennis*

Reconciled by God through Christ and made a new creation, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

