

March 22, 2020 + Fourth Sunday In Lent

10:00 a.m. Service on Facebook + [www.Facebook.com/CLOKCDotChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CLOKCDotChurch)

Announcements

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We gather in our hearts and minds on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, to worship in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Holy One, we cry out for healing, for sight, for light!

We come to worship.

We call on Jesus to light the way. Seeking to see and be seen, offering our cries, our longing, our willingness to act.

Confession & Forgiveness

Today, we confess our sins before God and one another in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

Grace abounds for you and for all, for the sake of Jesus ✝ Christ, the one God sent to save the world.

Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Healing God,

You exalt the humble and confound the righteous. Open our eyes to your truth, and wash away all that obscures our vision. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

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Reading Intro

Let us hear what God is saying to the church today.

A reading from the book of First Samuel.

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.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

In grass meadows He makes me lie down, by quiet waters guides me.

My life He brings back. He leads me on pathways of justice for His name's sake.

Though I walk in the vale of death's shadow, I fear no harm, for You are with me.

Your rod and Your staff— it is they that console me.

You set out a table before me in the face of my foes.

You moisten my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Let but goodness and kindness pursue me all the days of my life.

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for many long days.

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A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

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."

We thank God for your Word

Thanks be to God.

This is the Holy Gospel, according to St. John, from the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel + John 9:1-41

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

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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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostle's Creed

Let us join with others in the Body of Christ, and confess our Christian faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

We bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God's loving care. We pray for our Bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Mike Girlinghouse. We pray for Pastor Liz Albertson and the staff of the Synod and Churchwide Offices. We pray for Pastor Brian. We pray for the Three Covenant churches: Ascension & Redeemer & St. Mark, and our work at becoming Church Together. We pray for other churches in our communities and in our conference; this week we especially pray for *Our Lord's in Oklahoma City*. Light of the world,

Hear our prayer.

When we close our eyes to your possibilities, we willfully remain in a prison of our own certainty. Flood our darkness, O God, with the brilliance of your freedom and mercy. Light of the world,

Hear our prayer.

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With mud and water you restored a blind man's sight. Reveal to us the restorative powers of your created world, all that exists to make us whole and fill us with abundant life. Light of the world,
Hear our prayer.

Forgive us for all the ways we blind ourselves to the truth: avoidance, willful ignorance, stubbornness, and delusion. Lead us away from harmful habits and perpetual self-absorption. Light of the world,
Hear our prayer.

As you stirred up the healing waters of Siloam, so stir your Spirit in us that we might also be restored. Bestow your healing hand upon all who need it, **especially we lift up in prayer** ... Light of the world,
Hear our prayer.

O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbor. Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Light of the world,
Hear our prayer.

Like the saints who now walk in light perpetual, we seek a closer communion with you. Shine brightly through our lives as you did through theirs. Light of the world,
Hear our prayer.

Now, let us take time to lift up to God all of those people and concerns that are in our hearts and on our minds, knowing that God already knows what we need, but sharing with God those people and situations that we ask God to intervene in. *<pause>* Light of the world,
Hear our prayer.

Heal us, teach us, embrace us, and hear the prayers of our hearts, O Lord. For your mercy is great and given freely to all. In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Sharing Of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with those around you.

Offering

REMEMBER: *While we are not gathering together, church expenses continue. It is essential for our churches that you mail your offerings to your church.*

After Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God, you see to the heart of things;

To the heart of our lives, to the heart of our frailty, to the heart of human possibility.

Enable us to see the untapped gifts within and the unidentified gifts around.

Guide us into using gifts unseen and graces long abandoned. Take all that we have and all that we are and all we fear we could be and bless them for your work in your creation. Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

We pray as Jesus taught us.

**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, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor,
pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the
life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior **+** and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Blessing

Go in peace. Christ has restored you.

Thanks be to God.