

Morning Prayer (Second Order)
St Mark's & All Saints'
Fourth Sunday in Lent 2020

Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not
want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for His own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark
vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me; and Thy rod
and staff my comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

(Click pause)

Open our lips, O Lord;
and we shall declare your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to God: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

CONFESSION, RECONCILIATION & PEACE

We come together to meet with God,
and to take our part in the building up of the Church.
We will lift up our hearts in thanks and praise,
hear from God's holy word,
and pray for his world, and for ourselves.

The Bible tells us to approach God confidently,
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we do so, we must confess our sins,
seeking forgiveness through God's boundless
goodness and mercy.

We recognise that we have not always been agents of hope, love, joy and
peace – and silently confess these things before our Loving God.

Silence is kept for quiet meditation and reflection

So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray
together:

**God of all mercy,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We have wandered from your way.
We have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us,
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit
that we may live the new life of your glory.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.**

God desires that none should perish,
but all should turn to Christ, and live.
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.
God pardons those who truly repent, and truly believe the gospel.
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Heavenly Father,
give us wisdom and understanding.
As we listen to your Word,
may we know you better,
love you more, and learn to please you in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the Gospel of John, Chapter 9, beginning at verse 1.

9As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹He 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.' ¹²They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.' ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.'

18 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 ¹⁹and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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.' ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

24 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.' ²⁵He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷He 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?' ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' ³⁰The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' ³⁷Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' ³⁸He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. ³⁹Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' ⁴¹Jesus said to them, 'If you

were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Homily: *Click play for a reflection by Rev’d Michael.*

THE PRAYERS

Feel free to light a candle, and join us in meditative prayer.

We conclude by praying:

**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.**

COLLECTS

Gracious God,
in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:
as the light of Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in truth and goodness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O God, the author and lover of peace, in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend your servants in all assaults of our enemies, that, surely trusting in your defence, we may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Lord Jesus Christ,

**send us out with confidence in your word
to tell the world of your saving acts
and bring glory to your name. Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.