
ST JOHN'S N4

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 19th March 2023



Please pray:

- For the Anglican Church in Southern Africa.
- For wisdom and integrity from those in government.

Welcome to St John's! This sheet has everything you need to follow what is going on. The writing in the grey italics gives instructions. The text in normal type will be spoken by a priest, reader or other member of the congregation. We all join in with the bold type.

Please stand when the bell rings and the altar party enters.

Opening Hymn

**For Mary, Mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
Who first the Son of God
adored
As on her child she gazed.**

**The angel Gabriel brought the
word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the
Lord,
Made answer willingly.**

**The heavenly call she thus
obeyed,
And so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer
made
Which our redemption won.**

**She gave her body for God's
shrine,
Her heart to piercing pain,
And knew the cost of love
divine**

When Jesus Christ was slain.

**Dear Mary, from your lowliness
And home in Galilee,
There comes a joy and holiness
To every family.**

**Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
Blest in your Son, whom your
embrace
In birth and death confessed.**

J. R. Peacey

In the Name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Confession

We are invited to call to mind our sins.

Wash me thoroughly from my
wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your
presence
and take not your holy spirit from
me:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

The priest prays the prayer of absolution, to which we respond:

Amen.

The Collect

We remain standing for the Collect, to which we respond:

Amen.

The Liturgy 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

We say the Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;

with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;

my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell

for ever and ever. **R**

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.'

This is Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Praise to you, O Christ.

King of eternal glory!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,

anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Praise to you, O Christ.

King of eternal glory!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 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 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?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' 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.' 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 worshipped him.

And the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

.We sit for the sermon.

The Creed

Please stand for the Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus
Christ,**

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the
Father,**

**God from God, Light from
Light,**

**true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were
made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he
came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy
Spirit**

**and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was
buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the
Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no
end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and
the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the
Prophets.

We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection
of the dead,
and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

The Intercessions

*In the intercessions, we make this, or
another response:*

Lord, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.

The Peace

*Please remain standing as the
celebrant introduces the Peace.*

The peace of the Lord be always
with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

Offertory Hymn

Blessed assurance, Jesus is
mine:

O what a foretaste of glory
divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of
God;

born of his Spirit, washed in
his blood:

This is my story, this is my
song,

praising my Saviour all the day
long.

Perfect submission, perfect
delight,

visions of rapture burst on my
sight;

angels descending bring from
above

echoes of mercy, whispers of
love:

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest –
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:

Fanny Crosby

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Invitation to Prayer is said:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church. Amen.

The priest then prays the Prayer over the Gifts to which we respond:

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts, and we say the Sanctus and Benedictus:

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 priest prays the prayer of consecration, and this acclamation is said:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues, leading into the doxology, which ends:

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated host:

We break this bread, to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

We sing the Agnus Dei:

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.

Giving of Communion

Behold Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity, and are used to receiving communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Otherwise, you may like to come forward for a blessing. Please just bow your head as the priest comes to you.

Communion is available in both kinds. If you do not feel comfortable receiving from the common cup, it is perfectly valid to just receive the Host. If you would prefer to just receive in one kind, return to your seat before the chalice comes to you.

Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine). This is not permitted.

Communion Hymn

**At the Cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus at the last.
Through her soul, of joy bereavèd,
Bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
Now at length the sword hath passed.**

**Who on Christ's dear Mother gazing,
In her trouble so amazing,
Born of woman, would not weep?**

Who on Christ's dear Mother
thinking,
Such a cup of sorrow drinking,
Would not share her sorrow
deep?

For his people's sins, in anguish,
There she saw the victim
languish,
Bleed in torments, bleed and
die:
Saw the Lord's anointed taken;
Saw her Child in death forsaken,
Heard his last expiring cry.

In the Passion of my Maker,
Be my sinful soul partaker,
May I bear with her my part;
Of his Passion bear the token,
In a spirit bowed and broken
Bear his death within my heart.

Jesu, may thy Cross defend me,
And thy saving death befriend
me,
Cherished by thy deathless
grace;
When to dust my dust
returneth,
Grant a soul that to thee
yearneth
In thy Paradise a place.

Phineas Fletcher

Post Communion

*We stand as the celebrant prays, to
which we respond.*

Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

...and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn

Sing we of the blessed Mother
Who received the angel's
word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was
fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's
sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her
through,
When beneath the cross of
Jesus
She his weight of suffering
knew,

Looked upon her Son and
Saviour

Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's
redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's
apostles,
Waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own
being,
Manifest through wind and
flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was
done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly
home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,
Raised on high and crowned
with grace,
May your Son, the world's
redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

G. B. Timms

The Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought
tidings to Mary:
and she conceived by the Holy
Spirit.

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is
with thee, blessed art thou among
women, and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb Jesus:
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray
for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it unto me according to thy
word.
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of
the promises of Christ

This Week

Tuesday 21st	<i>Lent Feria</i>
8.30am	Morning Prayer <i>at St Thomas's</i>
Wednesday 22nd	<i>Lent Feria</i>
8.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Mass <i>at St Thomas's</i>
Thursday 23rd	<i>Lent Feria</i>
8.30am 10.00am 10.30am - 12.30pm	Morning Prayer Mass Renew Wellbeing
Friday 24th	<i>Lent Feria</i>
8.30am 2.30pm	Morning Prayer <i>at St Thomas's</i> Lent Group <i>at St Thomas's</i>
Sunday 26th	The Fifth Sunday of Lent
9.00am 12.15pm 4.00pm - 6.00pm	Parish Eucharist Lent Group <i>at St Thomas's</i> Messy Church <i>at St Thomas's</i>

Notices

As we begin to prepare for Mthr Alice's maternity leave, we are especially looking for people who can help to host our **Renew Wellbeing** space. This is already proving to be a valuable place for people to come and find conversation, companionship and reflection. You do not need to be able to commit to every week. Ideally, we'd like a team of people to share it between them.

Our Lent Group "Growing Good" continues today at 12.15pm at St Thomas's, or at 2.30pm on Fridays at St Thomas's. If you haven't been yet, don't worry. You can join us at any point.

We are preparing some music to sing on Maundy Thursday. If you would like to join the **St John's Singers**, they are meeting to rehearse straight after Mass today. You don't need any singing experience, just enthusiasm!

There will be a special said mass for the **Feast of the Annunciation** at 10am on Saturday 25th March.

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