

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## MARCH 19, 2023



"Healing of Blind Man" (1999) - Gijs Frieling

"As he walked along, Jesus 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." – John 9 1-7

# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks  
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

**(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)  
LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)**

*In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.*

### Prelude

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace

H 671

Celebrant  
People

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
His mercy endures for ever.

### The Decalogue

Celebrant

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not be a false witness.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

### **Celebrant**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

### **Kyrie**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us. **Amen.**

**A reading from the Samuel, Chapter 16, verses 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 *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.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 5, verses 8-14.**

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.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**I want to walk as a child of the light**

**H 490**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

**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.**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Catherine Hicks**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People**

God, our faithful Shepherd,  
we depend on you for everything we need:  
for daily food, for guidance and protection,  
for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow.

**You respond in abundant provision.**

**Thank you for your tender care of us.**

**Thank you for soothing the wounds of this life.**

**Thank you that in the presence of enemies,  
especially the last enemy of death,  
you are with us, as Shepherd, Host, and Home.**

Knowing your faithfulness in our lives, we bring before you the lives of others, the cares of this world, entrusting all things to your goodness and mercy.

Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. We pray for all on our prayer list, especially Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, and for Ken Pogue, as he prepares for surgery.

**Bring release to those who are held captive to old hurts or new bonds that oppress and entangle.**

**Bring freedom to those who are unjustly accused,  
relief to those burdened with debt,  
comfort to all who suffer from abuse of any kind.**



We pray for people living precariously in the midst of war, especially the people of Ukraine. Protect we pray, citizens and soldiers alike. We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially those on our prayer list, that they may carry out their duties with honor and return home safely when their work is done. We pray for leaders around the world, that they may be good shepherds of the people entrusted to their care. Teach us to put away our weapons, taking up instead words of peace and reconciliation, so that we may learn to live together graciously.

**We remember those affected by drought and famine.**

**We pray for rain to fall and for crops to grow, and for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources, until all your children receive their daily bread;**

**until all your children have clean water to drink,**

**until all your children have adequate shelter and medical care.**

**Compel us to be better stewards of creation so that the earth may continue to provide all that we need.**

Loving God, help us to see the world as you see it; to see others as you see them; and to see ourselves through your eyes. Because you have come into this world for judgment, we can leave our judgments behind. Pursue us all with your goodness and faithful love until goodness and love fill all our hearts and inform all our actions. We pray these things in the name of the one who came that we might see, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

**BCP 830 #51/431**

### **Offertory**

### **The Holy Communion**

**Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP 361**

**Sanctus**

**WLP 858**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 364**

**The bread is broken.**

**Lamb of God**

**LEVAS 270**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **Distribution of the Sacraments**

**Communion Hymn**      **My shepherd will supply my need**      **H 664**

**Post-Communion Prayer**      **BCP 365**

## **The Blessing**

May the love of God pursue you,  
the light of Christ enfold you,  
and the Holy Spirit keep you;  
as you dwell in the house of the Lord  
your whole life long. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**      **How wondrous and great**      **H 533**

## **Dismissal**

**Today's collect** is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

## **Resources for The Prayers of the People and the Blessing**

Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 1, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

Today's bulletin cover illustration is by Gijs Frieling, a contemporary Dutch artist. He paints religious subjects as well as idealized depictions of the world of nature as metaphors for divine creation. He also finds inspiration in other artists, art-historical themes, religious rituals, philosophy, films and literature. Frieling is a member of the Christian Community, a denomination with an anthroposophic slant that developed out of the Lutheran Church in 1922.

Marleen Hengelaar-Rookmaaker says of the painting that "It is striking that Gijs Frieling painted a horizontal stripe in the mud on the right eye of the man. Through this he seems to refer to another image Jesus used when talking about the sinfulness of humankind: that of the log and the speck. He summons us to a confrontation with the log in our eye, so that we may have sufficient understanding of our own sinfulness to help someone else with his speck. No more judgment but compassion.

To the left and right of the head of the 'blind' man Frieling has painted leaves and blossoms as symbols for healing and flourishing. Above his head we see a vague crown. These images remind me of Revelation 22:1-5: "The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations" and "They will reign as kings for ever and ever." Through his love, which is referred to in the hearts and crosses on the sweater of the man, Jesus had eyes to see this contrite blind man for who he was and could become." From the website ArtWay.eu. Visual Meditation, January 18, 2018

## Announcements

**Welcome to St Peter's.** May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship.

**The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church.** Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. **online** - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

**Happy Birthday-** Alexander Long VI 03/22, Johnny Davis 3/24  
Arthur Duke 03/25

**Happy Anniversary-**Tom and Alice Hughes 3/19

**If you would like to give a lily to beautify the church for Easter in memory or in honor of someone, or to make a donation to the Endowment Fund, complete the form and place in the offering plate – *Lily deadline is Sun, March 26, Endowment Fund, April 2.***

**Lent is the season to prepare for the journey through Holy Week and the joys of the Easter season to come.** The Confession of Sin and the Absolution are both part of the Penitential Order and occur at the beginning of the service. The Kyrie, near the beginning of the service, emphasizes the merciful nature of God's love for us.

**We will no longer be meeting for Monday Morning Meditation.** If you have an interest in meeting for prayer on a regular basis, either in person or on Zoom, please let Catherine know. Thanks to all who participated in the Monday morning time of prayer.

**Stations of the Cross—Meditate on the last hours of Jesus' life by walking the Stations of the Cross.** Mary Peterman's moving watercolors and the text on display . Enter through the back gate. The Stations will be located on the fence around the graveyard. Thank you to the Saylor's, who have supplied the welcoming information and background for the Stations at the front of the church.

**-March 19, Worship, Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999263545?pwd=WHpNa1JrU0J0OGdMV3NMRlhmWUVVCz09> Meeting ID: 869 9926 3545 Passcode: 889278

**-This week, the Psalms class will meet on Tuesday, March 21, 7pm-8pm at the same link that we use for Monday nights.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87304189375?pwd=RHRlUUCrSVU1K1JPWmhiMlc4Z2xpUT09> Meeting ID: 873 0418 9375 Passcode: 092098

**-Bible Study Wed., March 22, 10am-12pm. Parish House.**

**St. Peter's Lenten page – <https://churchsp.org/lentatstpeters2023>**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**

**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://www.news.churchsp.org) Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**  
**The Vestry**

**Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)**  
**Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025), Linda Upshaw (2026),**

**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar**  
**Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach**  
**Junior Warden, Cookie Davis**

**Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist**  
**The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector**

**The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus**  
**(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, [stpetersrev@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**  
**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**  
**Prayer List**

**Ken Pogue, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Alice Hughes, Jim Heimbach, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O'Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom**

**Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews (Linneth Feliciano's sisters), Sylvia Coleman, Ed and Doris Hooker, J. P. Wilkerson, Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin (friend of Marcia Kole), Nathaniel Schakenberg, Otis Felts (friend of Johnny Davis), The Glasgows (friends of the Felicianos), Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson (Linneth Feliciano's mother), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), J.T. Moriarty (Hicks' friend), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Patty Reno (cousin of Tom Kramer), Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Jonathan Coleman (Cleo Coleman's son), Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Orville Watson (Linneth Feliciano's brother), Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill (Lydia O'Neil's family), Lorena McElwain, (friend of the Pogues), Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw (Brad Volland's cousin), Joan Pemberton (Brad Volland's aunt), Albert Barnett (Andrea's uncle), Scott Crabtree (Eunice Key's brother), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin), Mary Lawrence Hicks, Rodney C. Johnson (Hicks' friend), Charlene Schakenberg, (Becky Fisher's mother)**

**Serving in the Armed Forces**

PJ Koons  
Steven Lee  
Alexis Rye

Scott Estes  
Greg Merkl  
Michael Hobbs

Cliff Lance  
Grace Grimaldi  
Alex Long V