

Fourth Sunday in Lent - 22 March 2020



Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A reading from Hebrew Scripture, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

1The 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.” 2Samuel 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.’ 3Invite 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.” 4Samuel 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?” 5He 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.

6When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” 7But 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.” 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 10Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” 11Samuel 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.” 12He 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.” 13Then 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.

Psalm 23

1The Lord| is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

2The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.

3You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

4Though 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.

5You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (5:8-14)

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

8Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—9for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Holy Gospel according to John (9:1-41)

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

1As [Jesus] 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 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?” 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.”

13They 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.”

18The 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.”

24So 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.

35Jesus 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 worshiped him. 39Jesus 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.” 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.”

In Our Prayers

Ian and Kaia Tammen Kolata, on the birth of their first child, Kai Bruce; Bruce Tammen and Esther Menn are first-time grandparents

Rita William, who was ordained on March 21 in the Augustana Chapel at LSTC. She has received a call to a church in Sault St. Marie, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. You can see a picture on Augustana’s Facebook page

Rebecca Calhoun, Carolyn Rahaman’s mother, recovering well from COVID-19

Deb Burnet, Joe Klonowski’s mother, a doctor working hard at UC Hospitals

Kimi, a friend of Joe Klonowski and Emily Kleeman, working hard at UC Hospitals

Maddie and her family, a coworker of Joe Klonowski. She lives in Seattle, and she and her whole family, including a newborn, are sick but have not been able to be tested for COVID-19

Friends and family of Dan Surria, pianist of Pullman Choir, died

Friends and family of Kernell Por, friend of JoRachel Pierce, died

Friends and family of Jean Ulmen, friend of JoRachel Pierce, died

Cantor Padraig McGuire, recovering from pneumonia

Neva Hefner, recovering at home

Ernest Johnson, pastor of Storehouse Church, recovering from brain surgery

Margie Davis, sister of Anika Mathews, cancer treatment

Bill Graham, uncle of Shelley Barnard, hospitalized

Mark van Scharrel, husband of Pastor Julie Ryan, advanced cancer

Frank Showers, undergoing treatment for cancer

Elizabeth Mishler, friend of Norma Zarris and Karin Moreno, congestive heart failure

Dave Sotak, friend of Judy Merritt-Morgan, recent organ transplant

David Mueller, friend of Judy Merritt-Morgan, stroke

Please do not hesitate to email the office with any prayer requests that you would like included next week.

Offering

At the end of worship, please remember to make an offering. The people we employ depend on your generosity during this difficult time.

You can arrange an [ongoing electronic offering through our website](#). Setting up a free [PayPal](#) account allows you to make an offering of any size with a debit or credit card; the email address you need is treasurer@augustanahydepark.org. You can of course send a check to Augustana, 5500 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL, 60637.