

St. Paul's, Brunswick
Non Traditional Eucharist
March 19, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Lent

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We acknowledge that we stand on territory that was taken from the Abenaki people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, the people of the Dawnland. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. May we learn from our past sins and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world. We ask for inspiration that we might be compelled to take action and support our native siblings as they continue to seek their sovereignty here in Maine.



Opening Song: Create in me (sung two times)

Art: pixabay.com

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, that I might serve you;

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, that I might be renewed.

So fill me and heal me
and bring me back to you.

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, that I might serve you.



Celebrant: God is here!

Response: God is here!

Celebrant: Let us bless God!

Response: Let us bless God!

Celebrant: Glory to you, God, for ever!

Response: Glory to you, God, for ever!

Celebrant: God be with you.

Response: And also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Collect *from Common Prayer for Children and Families*

Art: pixabay.com

God of mercy and forgiveness, you made us to love you and your creation, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we fall into sin when we choose to do hurtful things; guide us through the forty days of Lent, to come closer to you with prayer, fasting, and giving. Amen.



First Reading, Psalm 23 *from Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*

Art: pexels.com by Quang Nguyen Vinh

Reader (Lector): Please join in by reading the lines in bold.

God is like a shepherd. I am like God's sheep.

God provides everything I need.

God is like a shepherd. I am like God's sheep.

God leads me to good things because God is good.

God is like a shepherd. I am like God's sheep.

I do not need to be afraid; God is always with me.

God is like a shepherd. I am like God's sheep.

God's goodness and faithfulness will be with me always.



God is like a shepherd. I am like God's sheep.

I will be with God all of my life.

God is like a shepherd. I am like God's sheep.

We can trust God's love and care.

God is great, indeed!

Song: Sheep, Sheep Don't You Know the Road

Art: pixabay.com

Sheep, sheep, don't you know the road?

Yes, Lord, I know the road

Sheep, sheep, don't you know the road?

Yes my Lord, I know the road

Don't you know the road by the singing of the song?

Yes, Lord, I know the road

Don't you know the road by
the clapping of the hands?

Yes, Lord, I know the road

... praying in prayer?

... breaking of the bread?

... sharing of the smile?

... waving of the hands?

... loving in your heart?

... making of a friend?



Gospel Reading, John 9:1-41 *from Common English Bible*

Art: [christianpilgrim.wordpress](http://christianpilgrim.wordpress.com)

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a beggar who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?"



Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed through me. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see!

The man's neighbors and those who knew him as a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!"

So they asked him, "How come you can see now?" He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and

said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see."

Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day, a holy day of rest. So when the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see and he told them, some of the Pharisees grumbled, "This Jesus isn't from God, because he works on the Sabbath," but others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided.

Some of the Jewish leaders didn't even believe the man had ever been blind, so they called for his parents and asked, "Is this your son? How come he can see now?" His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself."

So they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "We know the person who healed you is a sinner." The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see."

They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?"

He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses'

disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this Jesus is from."

The man answered, "This is incredible! If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this."

They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they threw him out of the Temple.

Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One, God's Messiah?"

He answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you." The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily/ Sharing Time

Prayers Let us pray for the life of the world...

For the things we are thankful for...
 For our loved ones ...
 For those who teach us...
 For those who lead us...
 For the sick and poor...
 For ourselves...



Confession and Absolution

Is there anything you did that you are sorry for? Silently think about it in your mind.

Deacon: Lord God, we are sorry for the times we have been unkind, Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Lord God, we are sorry for the times we have forgotten you, Christ have mercy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

Deacon: Lord God, we ask you to forgive us, Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

Prayer For Forgiveness

Celebrant: Holy God, have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to eternal life.

ALL: Amen.

Special Blessings/ Prayers *(do you have a birthday/ anniversary/ something special you'd like us to pray for?)*

Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you!

People: And also with you!

Announcements

Offertory Music *(the parade to bring up the elements while collection plate is passed)*

Eucharistic Prayer written by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund

Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God, you are the Creator of the heavens and the earth. You have filled the world with the beauty of oceans and rivers; mountains, granite, apple trees and lupine; moose, deer, chickadees, cats, dogs and lobsters. Thank you for this earth "our island home." You sent Jesus your Son to be one of us. He died to redeem us and all Creation. Jesus rose from the dead to give us new life and make the world new. That's why we shout out our praise! We shout with the throngs of angels, archangels and with all the heavenly host. We shout our praise together:

Holy, Holy, Holy LORD,

**God of power and might.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
 the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We bring you bread and wine as our offering. Bless them with your Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus. On the night of his last supper with his friends, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it apart, shared it with his friends, and said, "Take, eat. This bread is my Body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they finished supper, he took the cup of wine. Jesus gave thanks to God and said to his friends, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood which is poured out for you. It is poured out for all to save us from our sins. Drink this to remember me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Gather us up by this bread and wine and make us the Body of Christ in God's church. Make us new people in Christ's Spirit. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

AMEN!

The Lord's Prayer

Our God 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 for ever. Amen.

Fraction (*break bread*)

Be known to us Jesus in the breaking of the bread. We are the communion of Christ's Body.

We share one bread together.

Invitation Holy Food for Holy People.

Administration of Sacrament The body of Christ, the bread of life!

Welcome to our digital congregation. We invite you to connect with Christ's communion by saying the following prayer.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Thanksgiving (Post Communion Prayer) – Loving God, we are grateful for the love that we share in this community and in Your Holy Food. Send us into the world to listen to our neighbors with hearts of love, and to share the Good News of Jesus. Amen.

Blessing *from Enriching our Worship 1*

Holy eternal Majesty,
 Holy incarnate Word,
 Holy abiding Spirit,
 Bless you for evermore. Amen.

Song: I'm Walking With My God Today *Words and Music: Nick Page, 2007*

Art: pexels.com

I'm walking (I'm walking)

With my Father (with my Father)

I'm walking (I'm walking)

With my Mother (with my Mother)

I'm walking (I'm walking)

With the Spirit (with the Spirit)

I'm walking with my God today

(I'm walking with my God today)

**Dismissal**

Leader: Let us go forth in peace in the love of Jesus!

People: Thanks be to God!