



LENT 4  
MARCH 15, 2026

## **Bell calling us together**

## **Opening Hymn**

## **Salutation for Lent**

Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

**The Collect for Purity – Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Kyrie**

Lord Have Mercy, **Lord have mercy**

Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy**

## **The Collect**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **Old Testament 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.

### **The Psalm**

#### **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.**

## **The Epistle**

### **Ephesians 5:8-14**

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.”

***Because of the length of this week's Gospel, our two readers will take  
Voices 1 and 4 and the congregation will take Voice 3***

The Gospel (Structure of Extract by Francis Moloney. *The Gospel according to John*, Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998: 291.)

Voice One: Narrator Reader1

Voice Two: Jesus Priest

Voice Three: All other speakers THE CONGREGATION

Voice Four: Man born blind Reader 2

John 9:1-41

Voice One As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him:

Voice Three "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Voice One Jesus answered:

Voice Two: "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."

Voice One: 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:

Voice Two: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"

Voice One: (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

Voice One: The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask:

Voice Three "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

Voice One: Some were saying:

Voice Three "It is he."

Voice One: Others were saying:

**Voice Three** *"No, but it is someone like him."*

**Voice One**: He kept saying:

**Voice Four**: *"I am the man."*

**Voice One**: But they kept asking him:

**Voice Three** *"Then how were your eyes opened?"*

**Voice One**: He answered:

**Voice Four**: *"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."*

**Voice One**: They said to him:

**Voice Three** *"Where is he?"*

**Voice One**: He said:

**Voice Four**: *"I do not know."*

**Voice One**: 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:

**Voice Four**: *"He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."*

**Voice One**: Some of the Pharisees said:

**Voice Three** *"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."*

**Voice One**: But others said:

**Voice Three** *"How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"*

**Voice One**: And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man:

**Voice Three** *"What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened?"*

**Voice One**: He said:

**Voice Four**: *"He is a prophet."*

**Voice One:** 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:

**Voice Three** *"Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"*

**Voice One:** His parents answered:

**Voice Three** *"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."*

**Voice One:** 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:

**Voice Three** *"He is of age; ask him."*

**Voice One:** So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him:

**Voice Three** *"Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."*

**Voice One:** He answered:

**Voice Four:** *"I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

**Voice One:** They said to him:

**Voice Three** *"What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"*

**Voice One:** He answered them:

**Voice Four:** *"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?"*

**Voice One:** Then they reviled him, saying:

**Voice Three** *"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."*

**Voice One:** The man answered:

**Voice Four:** *"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."*

**Voice One:** They answered him:

**Voice Three** *"You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?"*

**Voice One:** And they drove him out.

**Voice One:** Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said:

**Voice Two:** "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

**Voice One:** He answered:

**Voice Four:** *"And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."*

**Voice One:** Jesus said to him:

**Voice Two:** "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

**Voice One:** He said:

**Voice Four:** *"Lord, I believe."*

**Voice One:** And he worshiped him. Jesus said:

**Voice Two:** I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

**Voice One:** Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him:

**Voice Three** *"Surely we are not blind, are we?"*

**Voice One:** Jesus said to them:

**Voice Two:** "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say: 'We see,' your sin remains. The Gospel of the Lord

**Voice Three** Praise to you Lord Christ

## **The Nicene 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Let us pray to Jesus our Lord, our true light, that he may instill in all of us a personal and committed faith, and let us say: *R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.*

.- For the Church, especially for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean our Presiding Bishop; Lawrence, Geralyn, and William our Bishops, all the people and parishes of the Diocese of Long Island as we discern the call of our new bishop, and for Charles our Priest.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we give thanks especially in this week of celebrations for the Church of St. Patrick, Deer Park

We pray for us here at St. Mary's, that we may help the light of our Lord shine in this world and proclaim his message of truth and love in the language of our time, let us pray:

***R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.***

– For all those blinded by doubt or despair that they may see again the light of faith through the personal faith of dedicated Christians and the witnessing of the Christian community, let us pray:

***R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.***

– For all who claim to follow Christ, that their eyes may be wide-open to the injustice in which they share, and that they may help to restore the hopes of people in God's values of truth, dignity and justice, let us pray:

***R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.***

– For victims of oppression and discrimination, for refugees and those struck by disasters, that we may not be blind to their needs but help them carry their burdens, let us pray:

***R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.***

– For our beloved dead, that the Lord may take them into everlasting light and joy, let us pray:

***R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.***

Let us pray for all those who are on our parish prayer list.... *pause*... I invite you to share any intercessions you may have with this gathered community ...*pause*... For all of these we ask:

***R/ Lord, let your light shine on us.***

Father of light,  
you close the eyes of those who think they see  
because they rely only on their own insights;  
you let your Son open the eyes  
of those eager for your light.  
Let Jesus, the light of the world,  
heal us and give us faith and understanding.  
Let Jesus restore our sight  
that we may see the way  
that leads to you and to people,  
and at the end of our road  
we may see you, our God for ever. ***R/ Amen.***

### **The Confession**

The Lord comes to free from the darkness  
of sin and evil and grant us the peace  
that comes from justice and friendship.  
Let us now ask God to free from the prisons we have made  
for ourselves and for others by our blindness, and confess our sins

*Silence may be kept.*

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in  
each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and  
the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

### **Hymn for the Preparation of the Table and Gifts**

**Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow  
Praise God all Creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord 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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God  
and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into  
the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and  
discipline

we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your  
generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in  
the world

and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and *saying*:

**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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

*(Eucharistic Prayer for Lent, Scottish Episcopal Church)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for Christ in whom the world is reconciled. Lifted on the Cross, his suffering and forgiveness spanned the gulf our sins had made. Through that dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory, that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which the sons of Egypt died, your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

All: **Our Father...**

*Priest:* O Lamb of God, who takes the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, who takes the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, who takes the sins of the world, **grant us your peace**

**Gifts of God.....**

### **Musical Communion Meditation**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members**

**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing** *In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used, as follows: The Deacon or, in the absence of a deacon, the Presider says* Bow down before the Lord.

*The people may kneel and the Presider says one of the following prayers:.*

Lent 4 Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Closing hymn**

Go in the peace and the love of Christ. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

### **We Pray for the Healing & Support:**

We pray for the repose of the souls of Paul Richards, the father of Vicky Kotula and Walter Richards...and Sr. Tina Ferriot.. we pray for the Labrozzi family and their recovery from the fire

We pray for Judy Hoffman who has been diagnosed with advanced abdominal cancer.

For the continuing recovery of Mary Ann Blados, Andy Visconti, Gail Gurney, Margaret MacLean, Joanne Calabro, Joe Canning, John Stadenraus, Walter Brigham, Steve Giannitelli, Betianne Morritt, Mark Capellino's Parents, Cindy Belt's mother, Lois Corbett, Barbara Brigham for continued recovery , for Bob Fisher, Sharon Gibbs, Barbara Allen Lieblein Kathryn James, Peter Gulluscio, Bob and Virginia Springsteen, Ethan Pae, Valerie Capon, Louie Cicero, Linda Armbruster, Andrew Kuhn, Sr. Joy Wright

We pray for, Ukraine, the Sudan, Syria and the Middle East for peace and for safety. For all those suffering from extreme weather in our country and around the world.

We pray for peace and the end of divisions in our own country

For those grieving loved ones, especially those interred in our cemetery, for those who are ill, for all those who serve the sick, the needy and those in prison, for those who are anxious or fearful. For all those in the midst of war or natural disasters.





### **The Inner Light**

**He that has light within his own clear breast  
May sit i'the centre, and enjoy bright day:  
but he that hides a dark soul and foul thoughts  
Benighted walks under the midday sun;  
Himself is his own dungeon.**

**-Milton  
from Paradise Lost**



MAUNDY THURSDAY: 6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY 12 NOON MEDITATION AND PRAYER

GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY 10 AM MORNING PRAYER FOLLOWED BY THE "FLOWERING" OF THE CHURCH

HOLY SATURDAY THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER WITH OTHER DEANERY CHURCHES AT CHRIST CHURCH, SAG HARBOR TIME TBD

EASTER MORNING THE SECOND EUCHARIST OF EASTER  
10:00 AM