



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE

**EPIPHANY**

**March 22, 2020**

**The Fourth Sunday  
in Lent**

**Morning Prayer**

## Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

### Welcome Prayer

*All* **Holy Spirit, living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at Epiphany. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let our hearts be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Officiant* Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Philippians 1:2*)

### Confession of Sin

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*People* **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.**

*Officiant* 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.**

## The Invitatory and the Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

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

*All* **The Lord in full of compassion and mercy: come let us adore him.**

## **Venite**

**Psalm 95:1-7**

*All* Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*All* The Lord in full of compassion and mercy: come let us adore him.

## **Psalm 23**

*All* The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.  
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.

**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.**

**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.**

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

## **The Lessons**

### **Holy Gospel**

**John 9:1-41**

*Officiant*     A reading from the Gospel of John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man 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 in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spit 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" (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see. The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was 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 are you now able to see?" 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." They asked, "Where is this man?" He replied, "I don't know." Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see." Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner

do miraculous signs like these?” So they were divided. Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: “What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?” He replied, “He’s a prophet.” The Jewish leaders didn’t believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. The Jewish leaders asked them, “Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?” 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.” His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. That’s why his parents said, “He’s old enough. Ask him.” Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know this man 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 man is from.” The man answered, “This is incredible! You don’t know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God’s will. No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. 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 expelled him. Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Human One?” 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. Jesus said, “I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don’t see can see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, “Surely we aren’t blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you wouldn’t have any sin, but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

*Officiant*      Here ends the reading.

**The First Song of Isaiah**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

*All*     **Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*  
call upon him when he draws near.**

**Let the wicked forsake their ways \*  
and the evil ones their thoughts;**

**And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \*  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \*  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,**

**Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,**

**So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;**

**But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.**

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

## Apostles' Creed

*All* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*All* **Our Father 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.**

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

*People* **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;

*People* **We praise your Name for ever.**

*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;

*People* **For we put our trust in you.**

*Officiant* In you, Lord, is our hope;

*People* **And we shall never hope in vain.**

## Collect of the Day

*Officiant* 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.**

## Collect for Sundays

*Officiant* O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect for Guidance

*Officiant* Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*During the silences, the people may simultaneously add their own petitions, either aloud or silently.*

*Deacon* Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy.  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.  
Lord, in your mercy.  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy.  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy.  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy.  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy.  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

## Concluding Collect

*Officiant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Officiant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

## General Thanksgiving

*All* **Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you**

for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*Officiant* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### Blessing

*Officiant* God the Father, give us grace to walk in the light of Jesus' face; God the Son give us a part in the hiding place of Jesus' heart. God the Spirit so hold us up that we may drink of Jesus' cup; and may God Almighty, God Three in One, God alone, bless you and keep you. **Amen.**  
(Simple Blessings for Sacred Moments)

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

## Letter from the Rector

Beloved ones,

These past few weeks have brought an ancient/modern concept to Church. In the first decades after Jesus' Resurrection, followers of the The Way did not build buildings to worship in. Instead, these first believers saw themselves as the Church, much as we are beginning to see one another now. God's church is not the building, you and I are the church!

My love and prayers for you and your well being are unceasing and constant. Your staff, volunteers, and leadership are seeking out new ways to build 'virtual' connection with one another, as well as ways of worshipping our Living God. Last week, Priest Lynn launched a weekly phone tree outreach to check on every member. This coming week, with the help of volunteers, a DVD of our virtual Morning Prayer service will be delivered to those who are not online. Thank You to the many volunteers who stepped up to help with personal outreach.

You'll find some helpful links for connecting with one another after my letter. A lot has been happening behind the scenes! God bless you to the staff, clergy, and leadership of Epiphany for your devotion to the beloved people of God who make up The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

Please take care of yourselves, and stay safely at home.  
Priest Marianna+

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marianna".

**PS.** Please feel free to reach out to the office with any questions or pastoral needs at 928.774.2911 or at [office@epiphanyaz.org](mailto:office@epiphanyaz.org)

# Resources for at Home Spiritual Formation for Individuals and Families

## General Resources

[Faith at Home: Lectionary based readings and reflections.](#)

Our faith is not just something we check in with on Sundays; our faith is how we live lives of meaning and purpose every day of the week, if we will learn to notice and respond to how God is moving. But this awareness, like anything worthwhile, takes practice. Which is why a weekly discipleship practice of Reading, Reflecting, and Responding to scripture in the context of community is so important. The devotions on this site have been written with this practice in mind. Use them with friends or family to help you deepen your experience of faith experience from Monday-Saturday.

[The Bible Project:](#) Helping people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus

## Books and PDF's

Children's Bedtime Book: [Candle Walk: A Bedtime Prayer to God](#)

[Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home](#)

Free pdf of the [Book of Common Prayer](#)

[Prayers and Thanksgivings from Forward Movement](#)

The Episcopal Church: [Way of Love](#)

## Blogs

Wendy Claire Barrie's blog: [Faith at Home](#)

Thoughts of a Christian Educator: [Rows of Sharon](#)

Grow Christians: [a community of disciples practicing faith at home](#)

**Mosaic:** If you are a part of our Dinner Church community then be sure and check out the latest [email](#) from Ryan and join us in experimenting with cultivating digital community on our [Mighty Network!](#)

**Flagstaff Youth Co-op:** If you are a parent/guardian and are wondering what's going on with FYC while all gatherings and meetings in our diocese are on hiatus then hold tight! Ryan will be sending out a parent/guardian email first thing next week with information on what our program will look like while we work to flatten the curve through social distancing! For now students and parents can be sure to follow our Instagram page for more updates at [@flagyouthcoop](#)