

*The Officiant begins the service the following sentences of Scripture:*

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her.  
*Isaiah 66:10*

**Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept for individual confession.*

*Officiant and People together*

**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.**

*The Priest then says*

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 Psalter**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

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

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*Officiant and People* **Come let us adore him.**

*All say together the Venite*

*[Psalm 95:1-7]*

**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 repeat*      **The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:**

**Come let us adore him.**

*Then follows Psalm 23, said by all*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

**The Lessons, read by the Lector**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

*[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.

The Word of the Lord.  
*People Thanks be to God.*

*A period of silence will follow the reading, then all say together*

*The First Song of Isaiah*

*[Canticle 9 - Isaiah 12:2-6]*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***  
**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**  
**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \***  
**and he will be my Savior.**  
**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \***  
**from the springs of salvation.**  
**And on that day you shall say, \***  
**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**  
**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***  
**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**  
**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \***  
**and this is known in all the world.**  
**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***  
**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**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.**

A Reading from the Gospel of John.

*[John 4:5-42]*

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 Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

*A period of silence will follow the reading, then all say together*

*The Song of Zechariah*

*[Canticle 16 - Luke 1:68-79]*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \***

**he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \***

**born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,**

**that he would save us from our enemies, \***

**from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers \***

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \***

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear, \***

**holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

## Homily

*The Rev. Sam Smith*

### The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant and People together*

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.

*Officiant and People*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

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|-----------|--|
| Officiant | Show us your mercy, O Lord;                          |
| People    | <b>And grant us your salvation.</b>                  |
| Officiant | Clothe your ministers with righteousness;            |
| People    | <b>Let your people sing with joy.</b>                |
| Officiant | Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;                |
| People    | <b>For only in you can we live in safety.</b>        |
| Officiant | Lord, keep this nation under your care;              |
| People    | <b>And guide us in the way of justice and truth.</b> |
| Officiant | Let your way be known upon earth;                    |
| People    | <b>Your saving health among all nations.</b>         |
| Officiant | Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;             |
| People    | <b>Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.</b>       |
| Officiant | Create in us clean hearts, O God;                    |
| People    | <b>And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.</b>         |

*The Officiant then says the following Collects*

*The Collect of the Day*

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.**

*A Collect for Sundays*

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.**

*A Prayer for Mission*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

*The Intercessor then prays the following Prayers for Our Time*

*The leader begins*

Let us bow the knee of our hearts and pray to our God, the God of grace:

We pray today for your Church, for all churches and congregations who are unable to meet together at this time, for all who are meeting to pray together when we cannot. May we all hold onto your hope in a time of fear, show your compassion in a troubled world, and be your kingdom here on earth.

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

We pray for all your children around the world, for all nations struggling with the outbreak of deadly disease, for the leaders who bear the heavy weight of authority and government. May we have the courage to do what we must to keep each other safe and healthy, to hold on to a vision of the common good for all your children, and to face the days ahead in grace and hope. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who will lead us through this time of crisis, especially those working to ensure that everyone receives the treatment they need. May they receive the gift of wisdom and patience, all the tools they need to do their work, and the courage to speak in truth and compassion.

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

We pray for all who have been called to the holy vocation of caring for the sick: for doctors, nurses, and all medical staff; for first responders and technicians; and all who put their own lives at risk to help others. May they trust in the gifts they've been given and the talents they have cultivated, so that, at all times, they may be kept safe and know your healing love.

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

We pray for this community: for all who must continue to work; for those whose lives are disrupted; for all who will struggle to have enough food; for those who are homeless. May a spirit of generosity and kindness move among us, that we may better understand the cares and concerns of our neighbors and friends, and that we may find the courage to do what we must to care all of your children.

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

We pray for all who are sick: for those diagnosed with COVID-19, for all those awaiting tests, for all who are under quarantine: that they may know your presence when they feel alone. May your hope quell their fear, that they may know the power of your love.

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

We repent of the sins into which we fall: of the pride that leads us to believe that we will escape, of the greed that leads to think only of ourselves, of the despair that comes from loneliness and fear. May we embrace your forgiveness and mercy, find new ways to care for one another, and shine with the light of Christ's resurrection.

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

Even at this time, Holy God, we give you thanks for the good things in our lives: for the wonderful gifts of the health care professionals working today; for the skill and diligence of those working to expand testing and create a vaccine; for the goodness of our neighbors and friends; for the sacrifices of all who work for the common good. May we remember that hope springs from fear, that faith grows from the ground of uncertainty and doubt, and that your love is stronger than death.

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

*The Officiant will then lead prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.*

***Parish Prayer List***

- *People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Katrina***
- *Long-term prayer list: **George, Jeff, David, Doug, Barbara, Charles, ZsuZsa, Tom, Rich, Ronnie, Karen, Michael, Christy, John, George, Khali, Brian***
- *Our partners at Grace Church, Great Barrington and the Rev. Janet Zimmerman; Trinity Episcopal/Christ Lutheran, Sheffield and the Rev. Erik Karas; the Austen Riggs community and the Riverbrook Residence; victims of violence, abuse, persecution and disaster at home and abroad*
- *Outreach Ministries of the Week: **Gideon's Garden and Construct***
- *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Grace Church, Great Barrington***
- *Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **Anglican Church in Hong Kong***
- *Anniversaries: **Jean & Georgeanne Rousseau (26<sup>th</sup>)***

*All say together The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,**



**to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

Our Thursday Lenten Book Study reflecting on Jake Owensby's *A Resurrection-Shaped Life* continues on the Zoom platform.

We gather online on Thursdays, Noon-1:00 PM  
and 6:30-7:30 PM.

Through Holy Week, Father Sam will be available on Zoom for an hour two times each week for anyone who would like to come by for conversation and prayer. You may drop in for a few minutes or for the whole hour.

These gatherings will be on Tuesdays, 5-6 PM,  
and Fridays, 10-11 AM, through Holy Week.

For information about how to join in these events, go to our website:

[www.stpaulsstockbridge.org](http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.org)

*The Officiant will then say A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

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.**

*Officiant*        Let us bless the Lord.

*People*         **Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant concludes with the following sentence of Scripture*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**