



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

NINE O'CLOCK
MARCH 19, 2023
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Morning Prayer

VOLUNTARY

Psalm Prelude, Set 1, No. 3

Herbert Howells

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

-Psalm 23:4

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 458 (v v. 1-5)

Love Unknown

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

-Mark 8:34

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

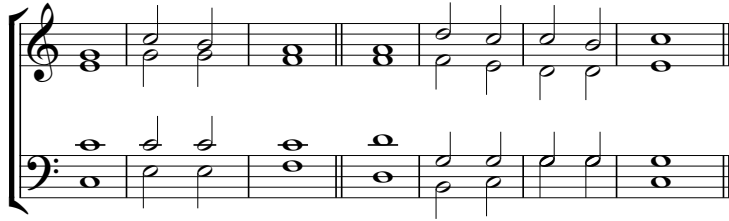
People: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

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.

INVITATORY: VENITE WITH CHORAL ANTIPHON

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 44

Richard Goodson



Choral Antiphon: *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us adore him.*

THE PEOPLE SING:

- 1 O come let us sing | unto the | Lord :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of | our sal|va|tion.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with | thanks|giving :
and show ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God :
and a great | king a|bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the corners | of the | earth :
and the strength of the hills is | his | al|so.
- 5 The sea is | his and • he | made it :
and his hands pre|pared the | dry| land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down :
and kneel before the | Lord our | ma|ker.
- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God :
and we are the people of his pasture * and the | sheep of | his | hand.
- 8 O worship the Lord in the | beauty • of | holiness :
let the whole earth | stand in | awe of | him.
- 9 For he cometh * for he cometh to | judge the | earth :
and with righteousness to judge the world * and the | peoples| with his | truth.

-Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

THE PEOPLE SIT.

PSALM 23 (KJV)

READ RESPONSIVELY, BY HALF-VERSE.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely 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.**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL
TO THE EPHESIANS.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (5:8-14)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

CANTICLE: THE SECOND SONG OF ISAIAH

Mason Martens

CANTOR SINGS REFRAIN, THEN ALL REPEAT.



Seek the Lord while he wills to be found.

call upon him when he draws near.

Let the wicked forsake their way,

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. **Refrain**

For my thoughts are not thy thoughts,

nor thy ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than thy ways,

and my thoughts than thy thoughts. **Refrain**

For as the 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. **Refrain**

-Isaiah 55:6-11

THE PEOPLE SIT.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴‘We 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.’ ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So 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. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” 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 how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to 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 said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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?" ²⁸And 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, "Why, this is an amazing 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 if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains." (9:1-41)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE AND SIXTH GRADE CONFIRMANDS CAN DEPART FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING THE SINGING OF THIS HYMN.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 429

Old 113th

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 53

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

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

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 54

**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.**

SUFFRAGES

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 55

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
People: And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
People: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People: For only in thee can we live in safety.
Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Officiant: Let thy way be known upon earth;
People: Thy saving health among all nations.
Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People: And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

THE COLLECTS

PRAYER BOOK, PAGES 56-57

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 58

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRACE

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

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME

HYMN NO. 671

New Britain

THE SERMON

The Rev. Wes Sharp

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddës grace;
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed
From all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart,
That burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
Of that celestial fire.

-Robert Bridges

The Offertory anthem *My Eyes For Beauty Pine* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983) utilizes a poem by Robert Bridges and was published in 1928. The text speaks of the Christian whose soul pines for the beauty of God's abundant grace, and whose gaze is fixed on heaven.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

CLOSING PRAYERS AND THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN IN PROCESSION NO. 665

Michael

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

IF YOU DESIRE, KNEEL FOR A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER.

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in B minor, BWV 544

Johann Sebastian Bach

THE GREENERY IS GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF

Virginia McMillan Bromberg
by Frank H. Bromberg, III

Edna Bate Pearce
Bessie Fortenberry Boudreaux and Minann Pearce Boudreaux
by Craig and Scott Boudreaux

Lorol Bowron Rucker
Norris Rediker
Tinsley White Rucker, IV
Mary Smith Slaughter
Mayfield E. Slaughter
by Mr. and Mrs. William M. Slaughter

Buford L. "Bill" Wilson
by Mrs. Buford Wilson

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Classes take place from 10:15 to 10:50 a.m. and will be available online at Audio.AdventBirmingham.org.

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *The Gospel, the Gospels, and the Gospel According to Matthew: The Law and the Gospel and the Gospel According to Matthew* – Jono Linebaugh

Inquirers' Class (Diocesan Conference Room) – *Baptism* – Jay Gardner

What God Does with Our Doubt (Living Room) – *“Are You the One?” (Matthew 11:1-10)*
– Leslie Housman

Faith and Family (Assembly Hall) – *Protecting Your Child from Abuse and Harm* – Ginger Menendez and Jill Marsh

CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

3K - Room 107

4K - Room 106

Kindergarten - Room 212

1st Grade - Room 214

2nd Grade - Room 213

3rd Grade - Room 218

4th Grade - Room 310

5th Grade - Room 307

6th Grade - Coe Conference Room

7th-8th Grades - Lower Morton Meeting Room

9th-12th Grades - The Undercroft

NEXT SUNDAY • MARCH 26, 2023

Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. *in the Nave*, 9:00 a.m. *in the Refectory*, and 5:00 p.m.

Morning Prayer at 11:00 a.m.

*Come to me,
all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

The Church of the Advent was founded with the City of Birmingham in 1872.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT (EPISCOPAL)
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