



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

p. 324

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

p. 167

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 Lesson: Ephesians 5:8–14

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1029

Commentary: Living out your faith consistently is one emphasis of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In this passage, Paul reminded his readers that they were now light in the Lord because they had been sealed by the Holy Spirit as children of God, and they ought to live accordingly. The 'fruit of the light' refers to qualities that reflect God's nature. The child of God, walking in the light, tries to discover and live out God's will in order to please Him. When light shines on evil deeds, it exposes them for what they are. Eventually God will bring all things, including evil things, into the light, so it is important for sleepers (another word for sinners) to wake up. Christ will then shine on them in blessing, as the sun warms what its rays touch.

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: John 9:1–41

NRSV, p. 978

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

People

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

The Nicene Creed

p. 327

The Prayers of the People

p. 328

Confession of Sin

p. 330

The Peace

p. 332

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer I

p. 333

Sanctus

p. 334

The Lord's Prayer

p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

p. 337

Prayer of Humble Access

p. 337

The Communion of the People *Gluten-free wafers available upon request*

p. 338

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 339

The Blessing

The people kneel

The Dismissal

p. 339

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Charles P. Graham.

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ admin@stjamesp.org

[@stjamesp](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesp) [@stjamesparish](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesparish)

stjamesp.org