



Church of the Ascension

March 22, 2020

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

To find the video, go to YouTube and search for Ascension Lakewood

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Let us pray.

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 Reading from Ephesians

5:8-14

You used to be like people living in the dark, but now you are people of the light because you belong to the Lord. So act like people of the light and make your light shine. Be good and honest and truthful, as you try to please the Lord. Don't take part in doing those worthless things that are done in the dark. Instead, show how wrong they are. It is disgusting even to talk about what is done in the dark. But the light will show what these things are really like. Light shows up everything, just as the Scriptures say,

“Wake up from your sleep
and rise from death.
Then Christ will shine on you.”

A Reading from John

9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents sinned?"

"No, it wasn't!" Jesus answered. "But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him. As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light for the world."

After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes. Then he said, "Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool." The man went and washed in Siloam, which means "One Who Is Sent." When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

The man's neighbors and the people who had seen him begging wondered if he really could be the same man. Some of them said he was the same beggar, while others said he only looked like him. But he told them, "I am that man."

"Then how can you see?" they asked.

He answered, "Someone named Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. He told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool. When I did, I could see."

"Where is he now?" they asked.

"I don't know," he answered.

The day when Jesus made the mud and healed the man was a Sabbath. So the people took the man to the Pharisees. They asked him how he was able to see, and he answered, "Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. Then after I washed it off, I could see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus doesn't come from God. If he did, he would not break the law of the Sabbath."

Others asked, "How could someone who is a sinner work such a miracle?"

Since the Pharisees could not agree among themselves, they asked the man, "What do you say about this one who healed your eyes?"

"He is a prophet!" the man told them.

But the Jewish leaders would not believe that the man had once been blind. They sent for his parents and asked them, "Is this the son that you said was born blind? How can he now see?"

The man's parents answered, "We are certain that he is our son, and we know that he was born blind. But we don't know how he got his sight or who gave it to him. Ask him! He is old enough to speak for himself."

The man's parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The leaders had already agreed that no one was to have anything to do with anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah.

The leaders called the man back and said, "Swear by God to tell the truth! We know that Jesus is a sinner."

The man replied, "I don't know if he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!"

"What did he do to you?" the Jewish leaders asked. "How did he heal your eyes?"

The man answered, "I have already told you once, and you refused to listen. Why do you want me to tell you again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

The leaders insulted the man and said, "You are his follower! We are followers of Moses. We are sure that God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where Jesus comes from."

"How strange!" the man replied. "He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know where he comes from. We know that God listens only to people who love and obey him. God doesn't listen to sinners. And this is the first time in history that anyone has ever given sight to someone born blind. Jesus could not do anything unless he came from God."

The leaders told the man, "You have been a sinner since the day you were born! Do you think you can teach us anything?" Then they said, "You can never come back into any of our meeting places!"

When Jesus heard what had happened, he went and found the man. Then Jesus asked, "Do you have faith in the Son of Man?"

He replied, "Sir, if you will tell me who he is, I will put my faith in him."

"You have already seen him," Jesus answered, "and right now he is talking with you."

The man said, "Lord, I put my faith in you!" Then he worshiped Jesus.

Jesus told him, "I came to judge the people of this world. I am here to give sight to the blind and to make blind everyone who can see."

When the Pharisees heard Jesus say this, they asked, "Are we blind?"

Jesus answered, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty. But now that you claim to see, you will keep on being guilty.”

The Sermon

Rev. Vincent Black

Let us pray.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We go forth in the name of Christ.

Please keep these people in your prayers today and all week long:

Our Spiritual Leaders:

+Michael -our Presiding Bishop; +Mark -our Bishop;
+Bill, and +Arthur -our Assisting Bishops;
+Vincent -our Priest; Noah -our seminarian

Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Doug Amberman
Martha Amer
Bobby Armbrust
Debbie Armbrust
Ferdinand Afumbom
Endrit Bala
Cathy Barbato
Raymond Black
Teddi Black
Carolyn Borsini
Trad Burns
Larry Carey
Tom Clark
Steve Conrad
Karen Cooper
Linda Cramer
Carol Culp
Nancy Dittebrand
Joe Farkas
Don Farrell
Anne Ferguson
Bill Fickinger
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh
Linda Gardner
Martha Hartman
Pat Hendy
Diane Jackson
Lisa Jones
Beverly Kliber
Kristen Kowalsick
Delores Kulunigan

Barbara Kutza
Susan Latham
Marilyn Little
June Madden
MaryAnne
Lois Melchoire
David Meschter
Mueller family
Nancy Murphy
Mike Neill
Corey Niebes
Sabrina Pewitt
Mursay Pratt
Laine O'Donnell
Keith Robinson
Miriam Schantz
Thomas Scheidecker
Delores Schew
Pat Scheetz
Rachel Sexton
Roselle Sgambellone
Naomi Singer
Wendi Stemple
Jonathan Tallman
Corky Thacker
Jeanette Triplet
Bob Tremlin
Mimi Verberg
Betty Weber
Brenda & Jaimie Wells
Bill Wofford

Those We Know in the Military

Bill Bobowicz
Stephen Cline
Jason Hildebrandt
McDowell (Mac) Jones

Sydney Kline
Jason Strater
Brendon

The Departed

Rich Cottone
Bill Hopple
Steve Klonowski
Bonnie O'Donnell

Ron Oleksiak
Victor Ruggiero
Ed Watts

To participate in a virtual service of Holy Communion and other forms of on-line prayer I encourage you to visit The Episcopal National Cathedral.

[Your Online Cathedral - Washington National Cathedral](#)

Pledges and offerings to the Church.

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

or

YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!

At theascensionshop.com you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! (With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to crowdes@gmail.com.)

Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
216.521.8727
www.ascension-lakewood.org
secretary@ascension-lakewood.org