

St Peter's Service of Song, Scripture, and Prayer

March 22, 2020 4th Sunday of Lent

Opening Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

The Officiant begins the service with this sentence of Scripture.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1:5

The Officiant: The Lord be with You

People: And also with you

The Officiant: Let us Pray.

O God of Peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your spirit lift us, we pray you, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Officiant and People say together in Unison:

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head

with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

The Scripture

A Reading from Ephesians 5:8-14

For 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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Sequence Song: "Jesus Loves Me"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (4:35-5:15)

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an

unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸ For he had said to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” ¹⁰ He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, “Send us into the swine; let us enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid.

The Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

The Prayers

Prayer Leader: The Lord be with You

People: And also with you

Prayer Leader: Let us pray.

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.

The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

In our St. Peter's Cycle of Prayer:

We pray that we will continue to find ways to support one another during this pandemic, for RE:work RICHMOND, our Food Distribution with Peter Paul, and our Neighborhood Bible Studies.

Silence

In our Neighborhood Cycle of Prayer:

We pray for the well-being of our neighbors at this time and that we will continue to be a support for them.

Silence

In our Metropolitan Richmond Cycle of Prayer:

We pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For persons living with terminal illnesses and for their families, friends, and communities; for persons working to find cures for diseases, for health care workers and hospitals.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the Anglican Communion and the 85 million Christians who are a part of this Communion throughout the world. I ask your prayers also for the churches and religious bodies of the East End of Richmond—that we will be unified in serving God's people and in our witness to God's priorities.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace among the nations and peace here in the East End throughout this year, and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice, equity, and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those seeking employment, for the sick, for the hungry, for the oppressed, and for all of our people in prison. We remember all those who have experienced any kind of trauma.

Pray for freedom and healing.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God or a deeper relationship with God. Pray we all may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who have gone before us. For all our family members, friends, mentors, role models, and leaders who have been examples to us and whom we remember now. I ask your prayers also for those who have gone before us whom we do not know.

Pray for all those who have died.

Silence

At this time, I ask your prayers, either silently or aloud, for those things in life for which you are thankful and for the persons for whom you now pray.

Silence

Officiant Closes with the following prayer:

A Prayer in Times of Communal Sickness

To our Blessed Assurance, our Balm in Gilead, our Rock in a Weary Land, let us pray...

You, who are our only help, we praise you. We give you thanks in the midst of the storm. You are our food, our shelter, our medicine. Nobody but you is able to deliver us, so we lift out our hands, trusting always in you.

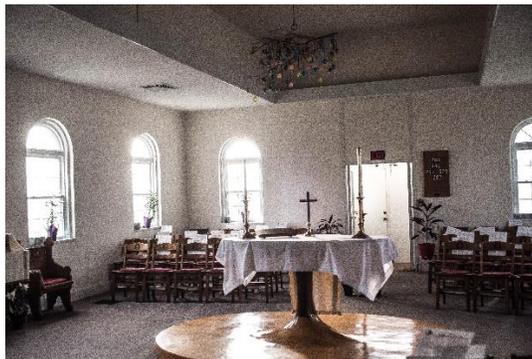
Have mercy on us for any way that we have neglected you, for any way that we have disfigured your creation, for our negligence towards one another.

You, who supplies every need, who gives us the desires of our hearts, send your healing over the sick. Revive those on the brink of death. Comfort the lonely. Feed the hungry. Save the desperate. Strengthen the well, that they may serve the good of all. Bring into submission the spirits of those who would exploit this time for profit. Commit leadership to just and equitable decision making so that people may receive adequate treatment, may stay in their home, may pay their rent, may avoid bankruptcy, may keep their business, and may access health services. You are just in all your ways, and you overcome the world. You are the healer; you are our only peace, and you overcome fear and panic. You give us your Spirit, so we do not doubt your capacity to work in us to will and to do what is your good pleasure. Use us now in any way that you choose. Show us what to do, when to do it, where to do it, and for whom to do it. For we praise you, we glorify you, and we magnify you. All this we ask in the name of Jesus...Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Song: “He’s got the whole world in his hands”

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!





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