The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2025
The Reverend Canon Mark A. Scheneman, presiding

The People Gather (please keep a rule of silence)

Organ, Irish whistle, flute, and guitar Preludes

Silent Procession

Entrance Hymn *"I sing the almighty power of God"* **Hymn 398**

The Lorica (St. Patrick's Breastplate or Deer's Cry)

Cantor: Today I shield myself with threefold po'wer,
People: Invocation *of* the Trinity.

Belief in the threeness, profession of the o'neness. **In union with *the* Creator.**

Today I shield myself with the power of Christ's baptism, his hanging and bu'rial.
His rising again and his ascension, his descent for *the* last judgment.

Today I shield myself with the loving power of the Cher'ubim.
Obedience of angels, service *of* archangels.

Hope of rising to my reward, prayers of the pa'triarchs.
Sayings of the prophets, teachings of the apostles,
Faith of confessors, deeds of *right*eous people.

Today I shield myself with power of heaven, light of the sun'.
Brilliance of the moon, splen*dor* of fire.

Speed of lightning, swiftness of wind'.
Depths of sea, firmness of earth, hard*ness* of rock.

Today I shield myself with God's power to dire'ct me,
God strength *to* uphold me.
God's good sense to g'uide me, **God's ear to *list*en for me.**
God's speaking to spe'ak for me, **God's *hand* to guard me.**
God's path opening befo're me, **God's shield *to* protect me.**

From the snares of de'mons, **The inducements of *my* own vices.**
The proclivities of human na'ture, **And those who *wish* me evil.**
I summon these powers to come **Between me and every cruel and merciless power That threatens my body *and* my soul.**

Christ be my protection toda'y; **ag*ain*st violence,**
Against I'llness; **ag*ain*st drowning,**
Against mortal wo'unding, **so that I may come to my ulti*ma*te reward.**

Christ be wi'th me. **Christ *be* before me,**

Christ be behi'nd me, **Christ *be* inside me,**
Christ be bene'ath me, **Christ *be* above me,**
Christ on my ri'ght hand, **Christ *on* my left hand.**

Christ when I li'e down, **Christ *when* I sit down,**
Christ when I ri'se up, **Christ *all* around me.**
Christ in the heart of everyone who beho'lds me; **Christ in every eye that sees me; and Christ in every *ear* that hears me.**

Today I shield myself with threefold power, invocation of the Tri'nity.
Belief in the threeness, profession of the oneness, in union with *the* Creator.

The Lord is salva'tion; **Christ *is* salvation,**
The Lord is salva'tion; **may your salvation, O Lord, be *always* with us.**

(Prayer bell)

Celebrant: In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace and peace be with you, **and also with you.**

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

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.**

The Word of God (be seated for the reading)

The Old Testament Reading **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 23 ***"The King of Love my Shepherd Is"*** **Hymn 645**

The Epistle **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. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn ***"Be thou my vision"*** **Hymn 488**

The Holy Gospel (remain standing) **John 9:1-41**

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Canon Mark Scheneman

The Celtic Creed (intoned by all, standing)

Our God is the God of all humans, the God of heaven and earth,
The God of sea and rivers, the God of the sun and moon,
The God of all the heavenly bodies, the God of the lofty mountains,
The God of the lowly valleys.
God is above the heavens; and he is beneath the heavens.
Heaven and earth and sea, and everything that is in them,
Such he has as his abode.

He inspires all things, he gives life to all things, he stands above all things, And he stands beneath all things. He enlightens the light of the sun, he strengthens the light of
the night and the stars, he makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea, And he places the stars in the service of the greater lights.
He has a Son who is co-eternal with himself, and similar in all respects to himself;
And neither is the Son younger than the Father, nor is the Father older than the Son
And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
And the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit are inseparable. Amen.

The Bidding Prayer of St. Martin

Celebrant: With all our hearts and minds we pray to the Lord, who looks upon the earth and makes it tremble, saying after each petition, "Lord, have mercy."

- For peace and tranquility in our time and for your Holy Catholic Church from one end of the earth to the other: **Lord, have mercy.**
- For Audrey our Bishop and Shepherd and for all bishops, presbyters and deacons, and all who minister in your Church: **Lord, have mercy.**
- For this community and for all who dwell here: **Lord, have mercy.**
- For all who are in authority; for the bereaved, the dispossessed and those who seek refuge: **Lord, have mercy.**
- For those who travel; those who do penance; those who learn the faith; **Lord, have mercy.**
- For those who in your holy Church bring forth the fruits of compassion; **Lord, have mercy.**
- For ourselves; through the prayers of your holy apostles and martyrs, grant us, Lord your forgiveness; **Lord, have mercy**.
- Grant us, Lord a Christian and a peaceful end. **Lord, have mercy**.

(Parish Intercessions are offered; and then intoning, the Confession)

O Almighty God, the heavenly Fa'ther, **and the only-beg*ott*en Son,**
Have mercy up'on us. **Have m*ercy* upon us.**
O Father, O Son, O Holy Spi'rit. **Have mercy upon us, O *only* God.**
O God of heaven, have mercy upo'n us. **Have mercy upon *us*, O God,**
From whom and through whom is the rule of all created things for you, O God.
To whom be glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: Deep peace of the quiet earth, Deep peace of the flowing air, Deep peace of the running wave, Deep peace of the shining stars, Deep peace of the Son of peace be always with you.
People: And also with you. (Greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

Announcements (be seated)

Offertory Hymn ***"Bangor"*** **Hymn 672**

Presentation of the Offering "***Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow"*** **Doxology**

Reception of Gifts

Celebrant: Thank you, O Lord God Almighty, Thank you for the earth and the waters, Thank you for the sky, the air and the sun, Thank you for all living creatures.
People: Come, O Lord, in the Bread of Life.
Celebrant: Praise be to you, O Lord God Almighty, For our homes, our families, Our friends, and loved ones. Praise be to you for all the people around us everywhere in this wounded world.
People: Come, O Lord, in the Cup of Healing.

Celebrant: We bless you, the Source of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. They will become our spiritual food and drink.

Celebrant: The Lord is here:
People: His Spirit is with us.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;
People: We will lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us thank the Lord for all He has done;
People: God leads His people through the years.

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. All your works, the height and the depth, echo the silent music of your praise. In the beginning you Word summoned light and creation dawned. You breathed the Spirit of Life into all creation, and made us in your own image. In the Word made flesh, you lived among us, and died on the cross for our redemption. You made the tree of death, the tree of life, the empty grave a sign of glorious hope. Therefore with all your people, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we chant the ageless hymn of your glory.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(The people kneel)

By the power of your Holy Spirit may these gifts of bread and wine be for us Christ's body and blood. Who, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and
gave it to his disciples saying: 'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper he took the cup, gave you thanks and said to them: 'Drink

this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Celebrant: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

People: Dying, you destroyed our death; Rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Celebrant: Risen Christ, we welcome you. You are the flowering bough of creation; from you cascades music like a million stars; around you rejoice the angels of light. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we offer you this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

People: Feed us with the bread of heaven. May we be filled with your holiness. AMEN.

Celebrant: As our Savior taught us, we pray together:

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 his 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: The bread, which we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ;

People: We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant: He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup.
So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us that we may come to God

The Administration of Holy Communion

(The Holy Table around which we gather is the Lord's, and not our won. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.)

Blessing Hymn *"Go, my children"* (tune to Welsh lullaby "All through the Night")

Go, my children, fed and nourished. Closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving. Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;

Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished. Joyful and free.

I the Lord will smile upon you. And give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you. And give you peace.

Post Communion Prayer (in unison)
Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, as we have shared this foretaste of the heavenly feast, generous be our hearts, open be our hands, justice be our benchmark, thanksgiving be our call.
People:

I rise up clothed in the strength of Christ. I shall not be imprisoned,
I shall not be harmed; I shall not be down-trodden, I shall not be felt alone;
I shall not be tainted; I shall not be overwhelmed;

I go clothed in Christ's white garments; I go freed to weave Christ's patterns;
I go loved to serve Christ's weak ones; I go filled to share Christ's love.

Celebrant: The saving streams from the pierced heart of Christ save you.
The sacred three shield you from all ill-will; Protect you from all that destroys
And lead you always along Christ's paths. And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn ***"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"*** **Hymn 690**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.