

# Readings and Music for

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2026

**Processional**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*H493*

## **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*

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.**

## **First Reading**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

A reading from the book of First Samuel:

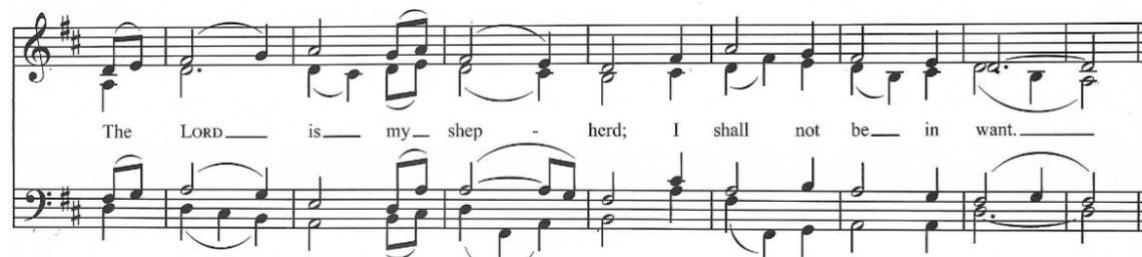
The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will 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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 23



The musical score for Psalm 23 is presented in a two-staff format. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with horizontal lines indicating the placement of notes. The lyrics are: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want." The music consists of a series of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

[ANT.]

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

[ANT.]

You spread a table before me in the presence of those

who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

[ANT.]

## Second Reading

## Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians:

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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

# Sequence

# “Lord Have Mercy”

by Steve Merkel

## Refrain: Choir and Congregation

Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy on me. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy on me.

## Verse 1: Choir only

Jesus I've forgotten the words that You have spoken  
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim  
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom  
Forgive me for my unbelief; renew the fire again [*Refrain*]

## Verse 2: Choir Only

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man  
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You  
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing  
Pardon my transgressions; help me love You again [*Refrain*]

## Verse 3: Choir only

I have longed to know You and all Your tender mercies  
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end  
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence  
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night [*Refrain*]

*Deacon*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.



**Offertory Anthem** “The House of God Forever” by Jon Foreman

**Communion** “Heal Me, Hands of Jesus” *WLP773*

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -  
2. Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter - ness a - way; let  
3. Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my sin; dis -  
4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus; anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

The first system of the musical score for 'Heal Me, Hands of Jesus' consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and begins with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.  
me for - give as one for - given and bring me peace to - day.  
pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.  
heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

**Recessional** “How Wondrous and Great Thy Works; God of Praise” *H532*

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS

***THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE REMAIN ON OUR PERMANENT PRAYER LIST AS THEIR NEED FOR PRAYER IS LONG-TERM RATHER THAN ACUTE:*** Don, Roberta, Marilyn, Jim, Mary, Emily, Meghan, Jan, Chelsea, Bob, Mark, Michael, John, Bob, Billy, Laura, Cindy, Pam, Katy, Lou, Nick, Brendan, Bob, Debra, Janet, Jacelyn, Sharon, Gabe, Chuck, Nancy, Mike, Tom, Betty, Carol, David, James, Kathy, Bill, John, Rosemary, Roberta, Earl, Patricia.

<b><i><u>This week at Transfiguration:</u></i></b>
--

<b><i>Today</i></b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>	<b><i>Church/FB</i></b>	<b><i>10:00am</i></b>
	<b><i>Coffee Hour hosted by the Hiznays</i></b>	<b><i>Leach Hall</i></b>	<b><i>11:15am</i></b>
<b><i>Today</i></b>	<b><i>Episcopal 101</i></b>	<b><i>Church</i></b>	<b><i>11:30pm</i></b>
<b><i>3/17</i></b>	<b><i>Vestry</i></b>	<b><i>Leach Hall</i></b>	<b><i>7:00pm</i></b>
<b><i>3/18</i></b>	<b><i>Soup &amp; Sustenance</i></b>	<b><i>Leach Hall</i></b>	<b><i>6:30pm</i></b>
<b><i>3/19</i></b>	<b><i>Rector Out of Office</i></b>		
<b><i>3/21</i></b>	<b><i>Bunco Night!</i></b>	<b><i>Leach Hall</i></b>	<b><i>6:00pm</i></b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Episcopal 101** – Join us again today after church as we continue our Episcopal 101 course. We will gather in the sanctuary around 11:30AM, and today we will be learning specifically about the governance of the Episcopal Church. Next week will be the last session, which will be on the liturgy of the Episcopal Church.
- **Rector Out of Office** – Hunter will be unavailable on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, unless you have a pastoral emergency.

- **Soup and Sustenance** – Join us this Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM for our next Lenten soup and sustenance session. Beth Lewis and Ann Gaston will be teaching us how to make hand rosaries as well as sharing about the background of the rosary and a little bit about the differences between the Catholic and Anglican rosaries. There will be a simple meal of soup, salad, and bread. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer to volunteer to bring soup, salad, or bread.
- **Bunco** – Join us for our next Bunco night on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6PM.
- **Birthday Cake Kit Project** - During Lent, the Children and Youth Ministry Committee is sponsoring a Birthday Cake Kits project. We are collecting all the supplies needed to bake birthday cakes (cake mix, frosting, icing, sprinkles, birthday candles, and blank birthday cards). Our church school kids will assemble all these items into individual kits (contained in foil baking pans) which will be donated to local food pantries. If you'd like to help, there is a signup poster on the bulletin board outside Leach Hall where you can register to bring one or more items. There is also a collection box where you can drop off your donations. We'd like to have all our supplies by Sunday, March 22. Thank you for your support!
- **Installation Service** – On April 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special "celebration of new ministry service" to install me formally as the rector of the parish. Our dean, Dean Mike Dwyer, will celebrate at the service, and the vestry will host a dinner afterwards in Leach Hall. Please RSVP by April 11th. You can RSVP by calling the church or by going to the event page from the online church calendar.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

### **March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10AM - Palm Sunday**

Join us as we begin our journey through Holy Week together with the Liturgy of the Palms and the reading of the Passion.

### **March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7M - Instructional Eucharist**

This is an actual eucharistic service, but we will use the actual *Book of Common Prayer* rather than a bulletin, and I will give explanatory notes as we go. This is a great capstone for those attending the Episcopal 101 courses, but I commend it to you all.

### **March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7PM - Stations of the Cross**

Join us for this traditional Holy Week devotion that takes one on a visual journey through Christ's last days.

### **April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7PM - Tenebrae**

Join us for this powerful and beautiful service of readings that are accented by an interplay between light and darkness.

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM - Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum, a service in three parts that takes place over Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week. Come to whatever services you can, but if you are able, consider coming to the full Triduum, as it is an incredibly enriching experience to journey through the whole thing.

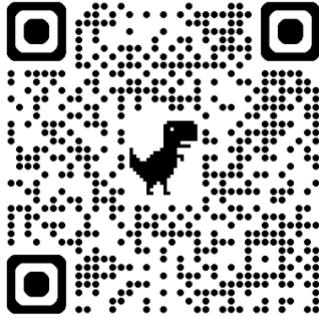
### **April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM - Good Friday**

This is the second part of the Triduum, which commemorates Christ's death and offers an opportunity to meditate on the cross.

### **April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6PM - The Great Vigil of Easter**

This is the third and final part of the Triduum. It begins in quiet contemplation in the dark but culminates in The Great Noise, a moment in the service when we proclaim Christ's Resurrection, and a shift to a tone of celebration. This is a great service for families, as it engages all the senses. It will be followed by a special celebratory time of fellowship.

## Online Giving:



**Rector:** Rev. Hunter Farrow, [rector@transfigpalos.org](mailto:rector@transfigpalos.org)

**Deacon:** Rev. Jason Elliott, [jasonagelliott@gmail.com](mailto:jasonagelliott@gmail.com)

**Deacon:** Rev. Ann Gaston, [anngaston@outlook.com](mailto:anngaston@outlook.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Linda Hibberd, [admin@transfigpalos.org](mailto:admin@transfigpalos.org)

### **Administrator's Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 8:30AM to 2:30PM

### **Priest's Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 10Am to 3:00PM

**CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

**12219 S. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave. PALOS PARK, IL**

**(708) 448-1200**

**TRANSFIGPALOS.ORG**