



Lent 4 Yr A – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Who sinned?

**Leader: Marian Grills**

***Meditation Hymn: Approach, my soul***

**Approach, my soul, the mercy seat,  
Where Jesus answers prayer;  
There humbly fall before His feet,  
For none can perish there.**

**Bowed down beneath a load of sin  
By Satan sorely pressed,  
By war without and fears within,  
I come to thee for rest.**

***Welcome:***

Welcome to the 4th Sunday Lent & welcome everyone online

***Greeting:***

On this fourth Sunday of Lent  
May the Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

*Let us have a Moment of Stillness and be aware of the Spirit's presence  
within us and all around us.*

### ***Lent Candles:***

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week.

*[Four candles are blown out]*

In our walking we know that we are not alone,  
for Jesus has walked this road before us,  
and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

### ***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

**We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.**

### ***Call to Worship:***

The bible is full of questions...

**Where are you?**

Am I my brother's keeper?

**Whom shall I send?**

Who do you say that I am?

**Who sinned?**

How many times shall I forgive?

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

The bible is full of questions,

so, just like those in the bible, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

**Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.**

### ***Opening Prayer:***

God of Good news,  
there is reading your Word,  
there is hearing your Word,  
and then there is tunneling ourselves into your Word:  
harvesting your Word,  
building a home in your Word,  
laying your Word over us like a blanket,  
wrapping ourselves in your Word,  
knowing your Word like the back of our hand,  
singing your Word,  
planting ourselves like a garden in your Word.  
God, we could listen to the bible like we listen to the news,  
or we could cocoon ourselves in your Word and it could change us entirely.  
So, bundle us up. Help us to change.  
We want to know you.  
With hopeful hearts we pray  
**Amen**

### **Hymn: TIS 547 Be thou my vision**

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day and by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, I thy dear child;  
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.**

**4. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**5. High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,**

**Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

In today's story the disciples ask Jesus, "Who sinned?" They want to know who around them could be blamed for suffering. The disciples want to identify who around them had done wrong. In the prayer of confession, we stop pointing fingers at others. In confession, we turn our attention toward ourselves and invite God into that honest and vulnerable space. Friends, in this honest and vulnerable space let us pray:

Who here has sinned?

**We have sinned.**

**We put our heads in the sand.**

**We ignored people in need.**

**We make false assumptions and fail to be kind.**

**We are in need of forgiveness.**

***Words of assurance:***

This is the Good News:

Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps.

When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God comes running.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

**Amen**

***Peace:***

The peace of Christ be always with you

**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

**Hymn: Man of Sorrows!**

**1. Man of Sorrows! What a name**

**For the Son of God, who came**

**Ruined sinners to reclaim!**

**Alleluia! What a Saviour!**

**2. Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned He stood,  
Sealed my pardon with His blood:  
Alleluia! What a Saviour!**

**3. Guilty, vile and helpless we;  
Spotless Lamb of God was He:  
Full atonement, - can it be?  
Alleluia! What a Saviour!**

**4. Lifted up was He to die,  
'It is finished' was His cry;  
Now in heaven exalted high:  
Alleluia! What a Saviour!**

**5. When He comes, our Glorious King,  
All His ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew this song we'll sing,  
Alleluia! What a Saviour!**

***Moment for the young at heart: [Brian Lenehan](#)***

***Bible Readings: [Rick Legge](#)***

### **1 Samuel 16:1 & 10-13**

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."

<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> 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." <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> 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.

## **John 9:1-41**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>8</sup> His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

<sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

<sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

<sup>12</sup> “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. <sup>19</sup> “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

<sup>20</sup> “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because

they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

<sup>25</sup> He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

<sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. <sup>32</sup> Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said,<sup>[a]</sup> “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” <sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Roger Abrahams**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Ron Brown**

***The Lord's Prayer:***

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread  
forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

***Community News:***

**16th March: Women's Spirituality Group  
29th March Palm Sunday  
3rd April: Good Friday  
5th April: Easter Sunday  
5th April: Daylight Saving ends  
29th April: Ella 50th Anniversary Morning Tea**

***Offering Prayer:***

Creator God,  
Take our Lenten offerings  
and make them radical;  
Grow their actions,  
enable their impact.  
As we prepare for tomorrow,  
may your will be done.  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
**Amen.**

*Children show & tell*

**Song: TIS 675 Shine, Jesus, shine**

**1.Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Ch: Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light**

**2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Ch: Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light**

**3.As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Ch: Shine, Jesus, shine**

**Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light**

***Benediction & Blessing:***

As you leave this place,  
may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry.  
Seek the weary.  
Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful.  
Seek the faithful.  
Seek God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder,  
may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God,  
who is always seeking us,  
go now in peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers:**

*Acknowledgements:*

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*Other liturgy: Sanctified Art*