

## At Home Liturgy for Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>\*

*This liturgy can be done by yourself or with a friend or family member. Pieces of the liturgy can be read aloud or silently. Titles are indicated with underlining and do not need to be read aloud. Anything in italics is informational and is not intended to be read aloud. If doing the liturgy with someone else, consider reading the Psalm responsively and taking turns reading the other Scriptures aloud. Offer one another the blessing. If doing the liturgy by yourself, read the blessing as if a dear friend is giving it to you.*

### Opening Prayer

Oh, Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Confession

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so I confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, have mercy on me. I confess that I have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. I have wandered from your resurrection life. I have strayed from your love for all people. Turn me back to you, O God. Give me a new heart and right spirit, that I may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

*Take a moment to read the following words:*

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. Amen.

### Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **READING: 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.”

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

- <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.
- <sup>2</sup>The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## Gospel Acclamation

Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me this living water that I may never thirst again.

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

As he walked along, Jesus 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.

*If you are planning to read the sermon or listen to the recording, please do so here.*

### Prayers

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God, you have made us a people of courage, not fear, a people of generosity, not greed. We are your church God. Help us be giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

God, give us eyes to see the beauty of all you have created, even when we are stuck inside. Help us to know what it is to love your creation in the midst of a crisis. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

God, sustain and support the leaders of all the nations as they struggle to respond to the danger, fear, and instability we are facing right now. Help them to discern a path forward, working together for health, peace, and economic stability. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

God, give skill, sympathy, and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Lord’s Prayer

*And now we pray as Jesus taught us.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Blessing

As we go forward through troubled times, may you feel God's love, be inspired by Jesus's example, and be strengthened by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Go in peace.*

\*Pieces of this liturgy come from Sundays & Seasons (ELCA liturgy resource), the NRSV, and Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals.