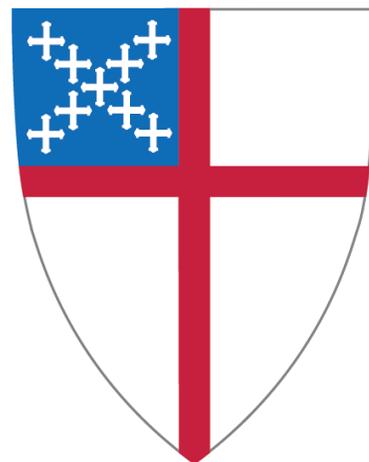


**The Lessons Appointed for Use on the**  
**The Fourth Sunday**  
**in Lent**

**Year A, RCL**

**March 15, 2026**



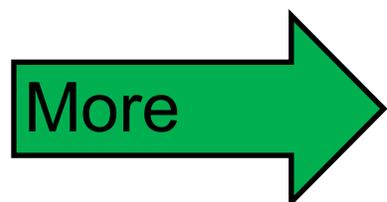
*(The Old Testament Reading)*

## **A Reading from the 1st Book of 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.**

*Leader:*        **The Word of the Lord.**

*(People:*        *Thanks be to God.)*



(Psalm)

**Psalm 23**

**Let's say it together in unison.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**



*(The Epistle Reading)*

## **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.”**

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

*(People: Thanks be to God.)*



*Prayers of the People*

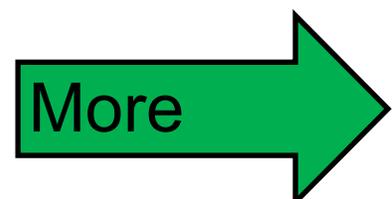
*Please stand, sit, or kneel as able for the prayers.*

*Celebrant: Celebrant: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church  
and the world.*

**Intercessor: Almighty and everliving God, who in thy  
holy Word hast taught us to make prayers,  
and supplications, and to give thanks for all  
men: Receive these our prayers which we  
offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching  
thee to inspire continually the Universal  
Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and  
concord; and grant that all those who do  
confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth  
of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly  
love.**

**Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura our bishops, and Fr. Nate, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.**

**And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.**



**We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.**

**Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.**

**And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.**

*Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.*

**And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Paul and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.**

**Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.**

