

# March 22, 2020: Lent 4A

**Color:** Purple

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[1 Samuel 16:1-13](#) (David is chosen and anointed to be king by Samuel)

[Psalm 23](#) (The Lord is my shepherd; You have anointed my head with oil)

[Ephesians 5:8-14](#) (Awake from sleep, live as children of light; Christ will shine on you)

[John 9:1-41](#) (Jesus heals a man born blind; Jesus brings light into a dark world)

**Themes:** God's Call, God the Shepherd, Light, Awakening, Healing, Vision

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**FOCAL Faithelement PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

(Podcast will be ready 2 weeks before date of use)

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

<a href="#">Amazing Grace</a> (NEW BRITAIN).....	John
<a href="#">As a Chalice Cast of God</a> (INWARD LIGHT).....	1 Samuel
<a href="#">Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun</a> (MORNING HYMN).....	1 Samuel
<a href="#">Be Thou My Vision</a> (SLANE).....	John
<a href="#">Gather Us In</a> (GATHER US IN).....	Ephesians, Communion
<a href="#">He Leadeth Me</a> (HE LEADETH ME).....	Psalms
<a href="#">I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath</a> (OLD 113 <sup>TH</sup> , NASHVILLE [MASON]).....	John
<a href="#">I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light</a> (HOUSTON).....	Ephesians
<a href="#">Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service</a> (BEACH SPRING, IN BABILONE, HYFRYDOL).....	John
<a href="#">O Christ, the Healer</a> (ERHALT UNS HERR, ANGELUS, ROCKINGHAM).....	John
<a href="#">O For a Closer Walk With God</a> (BEATITUDO, CAITHNESS).....	Ephesians
<a href="#">Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</a> (BRADBURY).....	Psalms
<a href="#">The King of Love My Shepherd Is</a> (ST. COLUMBA, DOMINUS REGIT ME).....	Psalms
<a href="#">The Lord's My Shepherd</a> (CRIMOND).....	Psalms
<a href="#">Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus</a> (LEMMEL).....	John
<a href="#">Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters</a> (BEACH SPRING).....	John
<a href="#">What Kind of Shepherd Seeks the Sheep</a> (FOREST GREEN), from <a href="#">Stars Like Grace</a> .....	Psalms

### Before/During Prayer

[Shepherd Me O God](#), Mary Haugen © 1986, GIA Publications, G-5402; 2-Part Choir, Cantor, Congregation, Keyboard, Guitar

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## ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**Amazing Grace** - MD ..... John  
*NEW BRITAIN*; Alice Parker/Robert Shaw, arr.  
© 1960 Lawson-Gould, LG00918  
SATB (divisi), a cappella

**Awake, O Sleeper** - E ..... Ephesians  
Marty Haugen  
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-3290  
SATB, (opt. Cong.), Keyboard, 2 Flutes, Guitar

**Come, Away to the Skies** - MD ..... Ephesians  
Paul Halley  
© 1998, Pelagos Music, PEL2037  
SATB, Soloist, Piano, opt. Rhythm/Bass, Organ

**Good Shepherd** - M ..... Psalms  
Gwenyth Walker  
© 2015, E.C. Schirmer, No. 8070  
SATB, Organ

**Grace** - E ..... John  
*O WALLY WALLY*/Mark Hayes, arr.  
© 1993 Beckenhorst, BP1502  
SATB, Piano (also available in SSAA and TTBB)

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand** - M ..... Lent, Psalms  
Thomas Dorsey/Jack Schrader, arr.  
© 1995 Unichappell; Hope Publishing, GC 968  
SSATB, Piano

**Psalm Folksong** - M ..... Psalm  
Edward Penhorwood  
© 1981 Hinshaw Music, HMC-534  
SATB, Keyboard

**The Lord Is My Shepherd** - M ..... Psalms  
Howard Goodall  
© 1994/2000, Faber Music, 12-0571520480  
SATB, Solo, Organ (string accompaniment available)

**The Lord Is My Shepherd** - M ..... Psalms  
John Rutter  
© 1978, Oxford University Press, 9780193856301  
SATB, Organ (string accompaniment available)

**We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace** - E  
..... Psalms  
Traditional Spiritual/William Appling, arr.  
© 2002, World Library Publications, No. 8729  
SATB, a cappella (TTBB setting available)

-- youth and children --

**The Lord Is My Shepherd** - E ..... Psalms  
Allen Pote  
© 1991, Choristers Guild, CGA-551  
SAT(B), Piano (also available in 2-Part)

**Do You Know Your Shepherd's Voice?** - E ..... Psalms  
Suzanne Lord  
© 1994, Choristers Guild, CGA-673  
2-Part, Piano

**Little Lamb, the Shepherd Loves You** - E ..... Psalms  
Anna Laura Page  
© 2007, Choristers Guild, CGA-1110  
Unison, Piano, Flute

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Be thou a bright flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path below me,  
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today, tonight and forever.*

-- ST COLUMBA (521–597)

*Like the lost sheep, we may have been lost in ourselves,  
but from the start we have always been found in him.*

— ROBERT FARRAR CAPON, *“More Theology & Less Cream”*

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*Good Shepherd,  
You have a wild and crazy sheep in love with thorns and brambles.  
But please don't get tired of looking for me!  
I know You won't. For You have found me.  
All I have to do is stay found.*

— THOMAS MERTON

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd,

**People: For I was once in darkness.**

Leader: He leads me beside still waters,

**People: For I have wandered long years in the desert.**

Leader: Even under the shadow of death, I fear no evil,

**People: For my Lord is the light of the world.**

Leader: My head is anointed with oil and my cup overflows,

**People: Lord, I believe.**

**All: Surely your goodness and love will follow me and I will  
dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

-- MARTHA DIXON KEARSE

## GATHERING PRAYER

Holy God, you chose us before we chose you,  
now work your will in the chaos of our lives.

Give us the insight to see the truth in your word,  
and the words to praise you wherever you are found --  
making miracles from spit and mud:  
through Jesus Christ, your Son. **Amen.**

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## CONFESSION

Lord, we are a people acquainted with darkness. We have grown comfortable with violence and accept anger as part of our daily life. We see enemies all around us; we find it hard to love our neighbors, much less our enemies.

We have allowed ourselves to be intentionally blind  
to the tragedies all around us, and deaf to the cries  
of our brothers and sisters for justice,  
for equal opportunity, for refuge, for peace. Forgive us, Lord.

Open our eyes and heal our blindness -- that we would tame our anger,  
see ourselves in perspective,  
and use our privilege for others.

Help us to give up all the excuses  
that enable us to deny others the abundant life you offer.

Even as Jesus healed the man blind from birth, so we ask that you would heal us, Lord. Help us to truly see the world as you would have it, each of us beloved and cared for, each of us seeing the face of Jesus in those around us. It is in the name of Jesus that we offer this prayer. Amen.

(MDK)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Leader:** The shadow of our sin is banished  
by the light of the world.

**People:** **Lord, I believe.**

(MDK)

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to discover your Word.  
Heal us from those places where our blindness keeps  
us from seeing you. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

God, who cares for you as a shepherd cares for his  
sheep, Christ, the Good Shepherd, who seeks out  
and saves the lost, Spirit, who is your Guide, lead  
you into the ways of peace, now and evermore.  
Amen.

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\*Thanks to Rev. Dr. Martha Dixon Kearse  
Pastor, [Peakland Baptist Church](#), Lynchburg, Virginia  
for her contributions to this week's prayers.