Proper for March 19, 2023, the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Theme: “Faithfully Working”

Collect of the Day:

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 forever. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Proclamation: 1 Samuel 16: 1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

New Testament Proclamation: Ephesians 5: 1-10

Gospel Proclamation: John 9: 1-11

Gradual Verse:

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy Law.

Prayers of the People:

 You may use Form 1, (ICCEC Lectionary) *or the following:*

Deacon: Dearly beloved brethren, the hand of the Lord is ever on those who seek to follow the leading of the Good Shepherd. Let us pray for His children, the sheep of His hand, that all may respond to Him.

Minister: Jehovah Rohi, the Lord our Shepherd*,* You lead Your servants in abundant pastures.

*People: As we go where we are sent, provide for the needy.*

Minister: You lead Your servants in paths of righteousness.

*People: As we go where we are sent, bring the backsliders to repentance.*

Minister: You walk with Your servants through the valley of the shadow of death.

*People: As we go where we are sent, protect the endangered.*

Minister: You lead Your servants in triumph over their enemies.

*People: As we go where we are sent, bring about justice for the oppressed against their adversaries.*

Minister: You lead Your servants into the place of anointed ministry.

*People: As we go where we are sent, break the yoke over those in bondage.*

Minister: You lead Your servants into the place of goodness and mercy.

*People: As we go where we are sent, heal all the sick whom we encounter.*

Minister: You lead Your servants into the Project of Love.

*People: Construct this Church in answer to our Corporate Petition.*

# The Concluding Collect:

Presider: Grant, Sovereign Lord, that all men see and recognize the true light, unmasking the facade of all that is falsely called truth and wisdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

# Proper Preface:

Father, all powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give You thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You bid Your faithful people to cleanse their hearts, and to prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by Your word and sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which You have prepared for those who love You.

Therefore with angels, archangels, patriarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs and the whole company of heaven we join in their unending hymn of praise:

Benediction:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep Your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. ***Amen.***

*Or, if the Presider is a bishop, the Lake George Benediction may be used.*