

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(YEAR A)



Sight to See

Lord God,
with the ordinary ingredients
of clay and water, you are able to restore
the sight of the man born blind,
so that he then believed
and worshipped the Son of Man.
We come to you in prayer,
asking to be freed from what blocks
our vision from seeing your
presence in our daily life.
Let us recognize your presence,
especially in the simple elements
of our earth, the bread and wine
brought to the altar table,
that becomes your Body and Blood.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Eyes of Faith



Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–2a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. In the First Reading, the Lord tells Samuel, “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” If Samuel had relied on his eyes, he surely would have chosen one of Jesse’s seven sons to anoint. However, God chose the youngest, the least likely to be king.

In the Gospel, the blind man is the one who is able to see Jesus’ identity. The man who was thought to have sinned or come from sinners had his eyes opened to see Jesus. This man was a beggar and would have been considered the least

in that society, but that is not what Jesus saw when he decided to open the man’s eyes.

The man who was blind since birth not only received sight but a new relationship with Jesus. With this new relationship, the man testified to what Jesus had done in his life, telling the Pharisees, “One thing I do know is that I was blind but now I see.” Have you spent any time during this Lent praying that you will see the way that Jesus would like? How have your eyes been opened to the way God sees? Has this changed your relationship with God and others? During these last weeks of Lent, seek to be open to the way that God sees.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 1 God's Grace

The royal official trusts so much in the word Jesus speaks, that he returned home sure that his daughter would be well. Jesus gave him the opportunity to have faith without seeing. When we come to Jesus with our desires, we do not always get an immediate response to our requests. Often when our prayers are answered, they take us in a direction that we may not have anticipated. Pray today that you may trust where God's grace is leading you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–13; John 4:43–54.*

Tuesday, April 2 Healing the Isolation

The man who had been sick for thirty-eight years holds out hope that he will be cured, even though he has no one to help him. His hope is fulfilled when Jesus encounters the man at that place of healing. Have you ever been isolated because you needed help? Can you offer assistance or support to the aged or sick who live near you this Lent? Something as simple as bringing a smile, reading a story, or taking someone for a walk can help them feel less alone. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–3, 5–16.*

Wednesday, April 3 The Work of the Father

“My Father is at work until now, and I am at work as well.” When Jesus told the Pharisees this, they were only angered at what they considered blasphemy. God continues to work, even on the Sabbath. How are we called to be collaborators in the work of God? Reflect on how you can practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to continue the work of God. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13–15, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

Thursday, April 4 The Word of God

Today's Gospel continues Jesus' response to those who are not open to hearing his words. Do you ever shut yourself off from the power of the Word of God? This week, be intentional about sitting quietly with his Word, allowing the Word of God to enter your heart. Pay attention to words or phrases that strike you. Write that word or phrase in your Lenten journal. How can you continue to think about that Scripture verse this week? *Today's Readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, April 5 Prepare Your Heart

The crowd in Jerusalem cannot seem to agree. They either know everything about Jesus or they do not know anything about him. It is easy to limit ourselves by making an assumption or jumping to a conclusion. Sometimes, too, decisions are rationalized. Prepare your heart by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or by seeking a spiritual director who is available to pray with you, challenge you, and help you to see how God is calling you. *Today's Readings: Wisdom 2:1, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21, 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

Saturday, April 6 Open Your Heart

Have you ever been with a group in which each person holds a different opinion? As they attempt to speak and argue their point, confusion and frustration ensues. The Gospel today speaks about division, because the Jewish leaders were judging Jesus. We do not have to look very far to see division and conflict in our communities and even our parishes and families. Let us pray to have an open mind and heart to the thoughts of others. Let us not close ourselves to the presence of Christ in the heart of someone whose opinion differs from ours. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*

