

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)



Light of the World

Almighty and ever-living God,
you sent your Son, the Light of
the World,
to conquer the darkness sin brings.
Heal our blind spots
so that we might live as children
of the light.
Grant that the Holy Spirit
may guide us to your Son
and strengthen our resolve
to be faithful witnesses to his
saving power.
Like the man born blind,
may we worship you all the days
of our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Moving from Darkness to Light



Today's readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. On this Sunday, parishes celebrate the second scrutiny with the elect after hearing the Gospel account of the man born blind. The story illuminates what happens to the elect and to all of us. When we encounter Christ, we move from darkness into light, from spiritual blindness to professing Christ as Lord. Pay attention to this dichotomy throughout the reading. In the scrutiny, the elect, as well as the whole assembly, call to mind the darkness in their lives.

Naming sins sheds light upon them and frees the elect to be healed and frees us to commit to the way of the Gospel. Consider the story of the man born blind. It reveals

this man's movement from blindness to sight and from knowing the name of Jesus to professing that Jesus is from God. This encounter with Jesus revealed God's mercy and love, and the man's faith was illuminated. The opposite is true of the community leaders, the Pharisees. At the end of the story, they remain in darkness.

During this fourth week of Lent, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes so you might see Christ more clearly. Ask the Holy Spirit to heal the darkness of your heart and mind, then consider how you might, like the man born blind, share the Light of the World with all those who remain in the dark. May our encounter with Christ deepen our faith and allow us to see the world, the poor, and the broken as he would.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 31 Believe

God responds to our petitions, though sometimes in ways and at times we do not expect. Today, we hear about the royal official asking Jesus to heal his ill son. Jesus tells him that his son will live and, though the official believes, it is not until later that he realizes that Jesus' word healed his son. Patient listening and a dedication to prayer are necessary to be attuned to God's movement in our lives. Reflect on how God has responded to your prayers. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54.*

Tuesday, April 1 Notice

Today we repeat with the psalmist: "The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob." God is with us just as Jesus is with the sick man in Jerusalem. This evening, reflect on God's presence in your day. Take care to notice the moments, big and small, in which God was with you. Say a prayer in gratitude, and ask for the strength to behold the deeds of the Lord tomorrow. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16.*

Wednesday, April 2 Lifted Up

In today's reading from the Book of Isaiah, we are reminded that "the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted." We echo this with the psalmist, singing of God's grace and mercy. We are lifted up amid our struggles and strife. In your prayer today, write about something that weighs you down. Offer it up to God, knowing he "lifts up all who are falling / and raises up all who are bowed down." Make it a practice to humbly turn to God when you are feeling weighed down. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145: 8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.*

Thursday, April 3 Accept Jesus

Jesus rebukes the Jews in today's Gospel, saying, "I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me." Jesus says they "accept praise from one another" instead of seeking the praise that comes from God. How can you accept Jesus more fully? Consider how you have prioritized the praise or earthly desires of those around you. How can you shift your priorities and seek God in your day-to-day? Challenge yourself to commit to a tangible action that will lead to accepting Jesus. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

Friday, April 4 Blinded by Wickedness

The reading from the Book of Wisdom states that the thoughts of the wicked erred, "their wickedness blinded them, and they knew not the hidden counsels of God." Our sinfulness makes it hard to see God and to be guided in holiness. If able this weekend, schedule a time to go to confession. Can you participate in the sacrament of reconciliation more regularly? *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

Saturday, April 5 St. Vincent Ferrer

St. Vincent Ferrer, a Spanish Dominican, is the patron saint of builders; he is known for strengthening and building up the Church through his preaching and ministry. In today's Gospel, we hear of the division that emerged as people debated who Jesus was. This division continues today. To celebrate St. Vincent's memorial, pray for unity in the Church. How can you help unite your faith community? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53.*

