

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, Year A

Season of Lent

First Reading † 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel,

‘Fill your horn with oil and go.
I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have found myself a king from among his sons.’

When they arrived, he looked at Eliab and thought,

‘Surely this is the Lord’s anointed before him now,’

but the Lord said to Samuel,

‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him; God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.’

So Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse,

‘The Lord has not chosen these.’

Then he asked Jesse,

‘Are these all the sons you have?’

Jesse replied,

‘There is still one more, the youngest; he is looking after the sheep.’

So Samuel said to Jesse,

‘Send for him, for we shall not sit down to eat until he arrives.’

Jesse had him sent for; he had ruddy cheeks, with fine eyes and an attractive appearance.

The Lord said,

‘Get up and anoint him: he is the one!’

At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him, surrounded by his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David from that day onwards.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for the length of days unending.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading † Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in complete goodness and righteousness and truth. Approve what is pleasing to the Lord.

Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness but rather show them up. For what is done in secret by such people is shameful even to mention; but anything shown up by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated is itself a light. That is why it is said:

Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [longer form] † John 9:1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’

Jesus replied,

‘Neither he nor his parents sinned.

He was born blind so that the works of God might be revealed in him.

‘As long as day lasts

we must carry out the work of the one who sent me.

Night is coming when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world

I am the light of the world.’

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the saliva, spread it on the man’s eyes, and said to him,

‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’

(which means ‘Sent’). So he went off and washed and came back able to see.

His neighbours and people who had earlier seen that he was a beggar said,

‘Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?’

Some said, ‘It is.’

Others said, ‘No, but he is like the man.’

The man himself said,

‘Yes, I am the one.’

So they said to him,

‘Then how were your eyes opened?’

He answered,

‘The man called Jesus made a paste, spread it on my eyes and said to me,

“Go off and wash at Siloam.”

So I went and washed and could see.’

They said to him,

‘Where is he?’

He answered,

‘I do not know.’

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. It had been a Sabbath when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so the Pharisees asked him again how he had come to see. He said to them,

‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’

Then some of the Pharisees said,

‘That man is not from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.’

Others said,

‘How can a sinner produce such signs?’

And there was division among them. So they said to the blind man again,

‘What have you to say about him – as it was your eyes he opened?’

The man answered,

‘He is a prophet.’

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had come to see till they had sent for the parents of the man who had come to see and asked them,

‘Is this man your son whom you say was born blind? If so, how can he now see?’

His parents answered,

‘We know that he is our son and that he was born blind, but how he can see, we do not know, nor who opened his eyes.

Ask him. He is of age: he will speak for himself.’

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah should be banned from the synagogue. This was why his parents said, ‘He is of age: ask him.’

So the Jews sent a second time for the man who had been blind and said to him,

‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’

He answered,

‘Whether he is a sinner I don’t know;
one thing I do know is that though I was blind I can now see.’

They said to him,

‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’

He replied,

‘I have told you already and you did not listen.
Why do you want to hear it again?
Do you want to become his disciples yourselves?’

At this they hurled abuse at him,

‘You are his disciple, we are disciples of Moses.
We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man,
we do not know where he comes from.’

The man replied,

‘The amazing thing is this:
that you do not know where he comes from
and he has opened my eyes!
We know that God does not listen to sinners,
but God does listen to someone who reveres God and does his will.
Ever since the world began it is unheard of that anyone
should open the eyes of someone born blind;
if this man were not from God, he would not have been able to do anything.’

They answered and said to him,

‘You were born wholly in sin, and are you teaching us?’

And they drove him out.

Jesus heard they had driven him out, and when he had found him he said,

‘Do you believe in the Son of man?’

He replied,

‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’

Jesus said to him,

‘You have seen him, and he is the one speaking to you.’

He said,

‘Lord, I believe,’

and worshipped him.

And Jesus said:

‘For judgement I came into this world,
so that those who cannot see might see,
and those who can see might become blind.’

Hearing this, some of the Pharisees who were with him said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus replied,

‘If you were blind
you would not be to blame,
but since you say,
“We can see,” your guilt remains.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Monday of the fourth week of Lent

Gospel [shorter form] † John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the saliva, spread it on the man’s eyes, and said to him,

‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’

(which means ‘Sent’). So he went off and washed and came back able to see.

His neighbours and people who had earlier seen that he was a beggar said,

‘Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?’

Some said, ‘It is.’

Others said, ‘No, but he is like the man.’

The man himself said,

‘Yes, I am the one.’

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. It had been a Sabbath when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so the Pharisees asked him again how he had come to see. He said to them,

‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’

Then some of the Pharisees said,

‘That man is not from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.’

Others said,

‘How can a sinner produce such signs?’

And there was division among them. So they said to the blind man again,

‘What have you to say about him – as it was your eyes he opened?’

The man answered,

‘He is a prophet.’

They answered and said to him,

‘You were born wholly in sin, and are you teaching us?’

And they drove him out.

Jesus heard they had driven him out, and when he had found him he said,

‘Do you believe in the Son of man?’

He replied,

‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’

Jesus said to him,

‘You have seen him, and he is the one speaking to you.’

He said,

‘Lord, I believe,’

and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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