

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)



## Light of the World

Good and gracious God,  
in your mercy you called  
your people out of darkness  
to live as children of the light.  
Give us courageous hearts

so our lives may bear witness  
to the Light of the World.  
Grant us, too, the strength to walk  
with those who struggle in darkness.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, March 10, 2024**

## Man Born Blind



*Today's readings: Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41.* Today we celebrate the second scrutiny with the elect and hear the story of the man born blind. In the verse preceding today's Gospel, Jesus says that he is the light of the world. This is a primary image as we ponder the Gospel.

During the time of Jesus, sickness was thought to be a punishment for sins. In the Gospels, disease is often used to highlight those who are marginalized from the community. Jesus' ministry is one of healing and bringing people back to the community, back to the flock. When Jesus heals the blind man, he not only cures his blindness, but also reveals

to him God's saving power. Jesus brought light into this man's life, and because he has been made clean, he can rejoin the community. Just like last Sunday's Gospel, today's reading is one of faith. Once the man is healed, he comes to know Jesus, the Messiah, and boldly claims that he believes.

As we pray with the elect during these final days of Lent, think about all the blind spots that keep you from seeing God's saving power. Ask that Jesus will heal those areas of your life that hold you in sin. Once we have named our sin and sought forgiveness, the Holy Spirit fills us to go forth to boldly proclaim, "I do believe, Lord." How can you reach out to the "blind" in your community?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 11 Blind Faith

John tells the story of a man pleading for Jesus to cure his dying child. The miracle of the cure convinced this man and the others present that Jesus was the Messiah. But what about those of us who have never witnessed such a miracle? Take some time to journal about your faith in Jesus. On what do you base your belief? How much do you trust in the Lord? *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21 Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; John 4:43–54.*

### Tuesday, March 12 Journeying Together

Asking for or accepting help shows courage because it implies that we are not self-sufficient. Recognizing our dependence on God and one another is a virtue. Being in relationship with others requires listening. Today, await the answer when asking someone how he or she is doing. Then really listen. Similarly, make sure that you leave space and time in your prayer for God's voice to bubble up inside of you. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

### Wednesday, March 13 Blind Faith

While the Lord is a just judge, people are not always so fair or righteous. Are you your worst critic? The idea of self-compassion might seem hedonistic or selfish, yet it can be hard to give what we do not possess. If we desire to extend God's kindness to others, we need to express compassion toward ourselves. Examine how well you practice patience and mercy toward others. To improve, begin with yourself. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

### Thursday, March 14 Taking a Pause

During every Mass, we encounter Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He is present especially in the consecrated bread and wine, in the Scriptures, in the ministers, and in the assembly. God does not want us to continue wandering in the desert; he beckons us to the promised land of eternal life. This week, meditate on a part of the Mass. Practice being truly present during Mass to allow space for conversion and transformation. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

### Friday, March 15 Genuine Encounter

What does it mean to truly know someone? Have you followed a famous figure or professional contact and felt that you knew everything about him or her without having even met the person? Or perhaps you met the individual and encountered someone different than you had imagined? In today's Gospel, the inhabitants of Jerusalem think that they know Jesus, but their knowledge is on a surface level. They do not know the One who sent him. When you read the Scriptures, invite the words to fill your heart so that you can know the Lord. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21, 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

### Saturday, March 16 The Body of Christ

Many things can distract us as we seek to become closer to God and spread the Good News. How can you stay rooted in a life of discipleship? What are some of the things you can do in your community to continue the ministry of Jesus? Can you read to children at the library? Or volunteer in a soup kitchen? Does your community have a cleanup day for which you could sign up? Strive to be walking testimonies of Jesus' love. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*

