

Sunday Readings

15th March 2026

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel

16:1,6-7,10-13

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22. R/. v.1

R/. 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,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R/.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R/.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R/.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Ephesians

5:8-14

to the

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; 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 these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called 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 do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but 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 answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

I'm sure we all recognize that the account in the Gospel today about the man born blind is not simply an account of physical blindness and the recovery of eyesight. The real cure has to do with spiritual blindness. The truth is that we don't see at all well when it comes to both seeing God and seeing other people. Beyond that there is the matter of seeing and paying attention to the deeper realities hidden within the people and events that we encounter during our daily lives.

Today's gospel reading is about blindness. It causes me to suggest that you and I need to look at the answers to some important questions -- What are we looking at? What should we be looking at? What are we looking at that we should not be looking at?

The most important thing we need to look at is our relationship with God. It goes without saying that a lot of unhappiness is found in the lives of those who simply set God aside. They think they will get around to paying attention to God "later," and later never comes around, often until it's too late. We need to look at the "now" in our relationship with God.

The secret to having good insight, inner sight, inner vision, is found in prayer, in spending time with God trying to see things as He sees them. If you take this route you will have some wonderful surprises. You'll begin to see beauty in others, a beauty that others and we ourselves often miss because we have eyes to see but don't really see. In spending some quiet time alone with God you will see God's gifts in your life.

St. John's Gospel is filled with references to light and darkness, blindness and vision, seeing and not seeing. The old proverb: "None are so blind as those who refuse to see," comes to mind. We might add: "None are so blind as those who are too busy to see."

Lent is now half over. The good news is that half of Lent yet lies in front of us, giving us, in God's good graces, more chances to utilize the time remaining in paying attention to what we see and don't see, and what we ought to take a look at.



Mothering Sunday

The exact origins of Mothering Sunday are unclear. Some have even linked it with the spring festivals for various mother goddesses held in ancient Greece and Rome.

However, it is certainly known that by the 16th century during Lent there was one Sunday when all returned to their "Mother Church" - the main church or cathedral of the area. This custom evolved over the years to become the day when those working away from home, often in service, or as apprentices, returned to visit not only their mother-church, but also their own mother and family. They would bring hand-picked flowers or cake; a precursor to the tradition still observed today of the giving of gifts to mothers on Mothering Sunday.

By the early 20th century celebrating Mothering Sunday had waned in many places, but the institution of Mothers Day in the US brought about renewed interest. This was a cause championed by Mothers' Union, amongst others.

Today, Mothering Sunday continues to be celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent.



Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Anselm

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,

for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Amen.