

## Fourth Sunday in Lent A



**Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. Is 66:10-11**

There is a frightening amount of darkness in the world today. But the Gospel proclaims the wonderful words of Christ: 'I am the light of the world.' Christ is indeed the light of the world and of our lives. Let us reflect for a moment on how much we need his light for our own lives and for the world.

Lord Jesus, you help us to walk in the light of faith. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you help us to walk in the light of hope. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you help us to walk in the light of love. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray:

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Samuel

16:1.6-7.10-13

The Lord said to Samuel: 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought: 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him'. 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 man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse: 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse: 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered: 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse: 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said: 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22

**Response:                   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.

**Response**

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.   **Response**

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

**Response**

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.                   **Response**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

5: 8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

GOSPEL

John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you Lord.**

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said: 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them, so they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet,' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

*Offertory:*

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Prayer over the Offerings:*

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God  
through Christ our Lord.

By the mystery of the Incarnation,  
he has led the human race  
that walked in darkness  
into the radiance of the faith  
and has brought those born  
in slavery of ancient sin  
through the waters of regeneration  
to make them your adopted children.  
Therefore all creatures of heaven and earth  
sing a new song in adoration,  
and we, with all the host of Angels,  
cry out, and without end acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The mystery of faith: **Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

*Communion Antiphon:* **The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God**

REFLECTION

God of my blindness, bring me sight; allow my darkneses to flood with light. Teach me the way to know my sin; let it provide a path for you to come in. Anoint my sightlessness with graced mud and clay that I might have blinding vision each day. Amen.

*Prayer after Communion:*

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Final Blessing*

The Lord be with You

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**And with your spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Merciful God, we pray for those who walk through life with a sense of guilt, burdened by past mistakes, overwhelmed by a sense of failure, troubled by feelings of shame, depressed by the knowledge of their own weaknesses. Help them to understand that in you they can find true forgiveness and a new beginning.

We pray for those who have been wronged by others, hurt, deceived, betrayed, let down. Help them to be ready to forgive others as you have forgiven us. In your mercy hear us, Lord.

Merciful Lord, we remember today how you reached out through the ministry of Christ, welcoming those whom society rejected, accepting those whom the world considered unacceptable. Help us to be the ones who will further your mercy and compassion to all these who have been sidelined for so long.