

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year A

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins,
and at thy side to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thirst and hunger thou didst bear
so teach us, gracious Lord
to die to self, and daily live
by thy most holy word.



FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel

16:1.6-7.10-13

David is anointed king of Israel

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R) v. 1

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

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. 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

Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

9:1-41

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

* 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, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;
the night will soon be here 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 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.' * So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

* 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. *

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak

for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' * '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. *

Jesus said:
 'It is for judgement
 that I have come into this world,
 so that those without sight may see
 and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were,
 you would not be guilty,
 but since you say, "We see",
 your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 (All bow)
 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 HYMN

Take and receive O Lord my liberty
 Take all my will, my mind, my memory
 Do Thou direct, and govern all and sway
 Do what Thou wilt, command and I obey.

*Only thy grace and love on me bestow
 Possessing these all riches I forego.* } 2

All things I hold, and all I own are thine
 Thine was the gift, to thee I all resign
 Do Thou direct and govern all and sway
 Do what Thou wilt, command and I obey

COMMUNION HYMNS

- 1. O cross erected above the world } 2
 Cross of our Saviour King!
 Fount from which gushed the waters
 Straight from the wound in His side
 Filling our lives with His gift of grace
 Cross of our Saviour King
- 2. O cross sublime and refulgent tree, } 2
 Cross of our Saviour King!
 Jesus through thee has saved us,
 Great was the price that He paid
 Thou art the folly of love divine,
 Cross of our Saviour King!
- 3. O cross, Thou channel of grace divine, } 2
 Cross of our Saviour King!
 Tree on which death was conquered
 Thou the first altar of love
 Jesus, the Lamb gave His Life on thee,
 Cross of our Saviour King!

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- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found;
 Was blind, but now I see.
 - 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed!
 - 3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
 I have already come;
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
 And grace will lead me home.
 - 4. The Lord has promised good to me.
 His word my hope secures.
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

*We hail thee, Saviour and Lord
 Thy Cross ever be adored!*

- 1. O Cross, thou art the fountain
 Of love and of liberty;
 Shine down upon the millions
 Who search for the light of truth.
- 2. Look down upon the needy,
 Confirm them in strength and grace,
 Thou art our true salvation
 In thee, all our hope we place.
- 3. Be thou our sign of vict'ry
 Redeem us from sin and strife.
 Renew in us thy passion
 And grant us eternal life.

