



*A Liturgy of the Word for Home
on the Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Sunday, March 22, 2020

GREETING (*all make the Sign of the Cross, saying:)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ACT OF PENANCE (*All briefly call to mind their sins, praising God for his mercy.)*

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking the breast, continue:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*An audio version of the Liturgy of the Word may be found at
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm>. When you are there, click on March 22.*

FIRST READING (I Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

The LORD said to Samuel:
“Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.
I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”
As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,
Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,
“Surely the LORD’s anointed is here before him.”
But the LORD said to Samuel:
“Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature,
because I have rejected him.
Not as man sees does God see,
because man sees the appearance
but the LORD looks into the heart.”
In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,
“The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”
Then Samuel asked Jesse,
“Are these all the sons you have?”
Jesse replied,
“There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”

continued

Samuel said to Jesse,
“Send for him;
we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”
Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.
He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold
and making a splendid appearance.
The LORD said,
“There—anoint him, for this is the one!”
Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 23)

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

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

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

SECOND READING (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Brothers and sisters:
You were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth.
Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
the things done by them in secret;
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

GOSPEL (John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —.

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.
His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
“Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is, “
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
He said, “I am.”
They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
So some of the Pharisees said,
“This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath.”
But others said,
“How can a sinful man do such signs?”
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
“What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”
They answered and said to him,
“You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.
When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
He answered and said,
“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
Jesus said to him,
“You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he.”
He said,
“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

A video homily is available at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

All may reflect in silence, journal, or share their thoughts with others.

INTERCESSIONS

For our Holy Father Francis, Bishop Hying and all shepherds of the Church, let us pray,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to the spread of the coronavirus,
may doctors and scientists learn to control and cure it,
and may we have the discipline to isolate ourselves for the common good, let us pray,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who will be baptized, confirmed,
and brought into the fullness of the faith at the Easter Vigil
may their eyes be opened to a life in Christ, let us pray,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For health care workers and all who work to eradicate COVID-19,
keep them and their families safe and healthy, let us pray,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in nursing homes and for all who are lonely and confused,
may the Blessed Mother calm them and intercede for them, let us pray,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died from COVID-19 and for all those who have gone before us,
may they rise to Christ's eternal light, let us pray,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You may add personal intercessions here. When done, all continue:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

PRAYER

O God, who enlightens everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendor 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.

*Prayer After Communion
The Fourth Sunday of Lent*

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Almighty God bless us,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.