

Readings for 4th Sunday of Lent:

1 Samuel 16, 1: 16-17, 10-13 Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14 Gospel: John 9:1-41

Homily for the 4th Sunday of Lent

So we “gather” in prayer, from our homes, from our hearts, yearning for the time when we can again “gather” truly in the gift of the Mass.

The 4th Sunday of Lent was always seen as a “time to rejoice” that the penitential season was nearing its conclusion and Easter coming nearer. It surely doesn’t feel like a time to “rejoice”---it seems we are deep in a penitential time, where faith, hope and love are challenged hourly: for the sick, for caregivers, for ourselves and a world locked in fear, anxiety, and uncertainty.

Let us look at the Readings for Mass this Sunday for guidance and comfort: In the First Reading, in an unsettled time, Samuel is sent to anoint a new king for Israel, an unlikely one is chosen: David-- a young man-- not considered important by his family, but important to God’s plan of salvation.

The shepherding care of God is made even clearer through the Responsorial Psalm, penned by King David under divine inspiration, reminding us of God’s care for His people.

The Second Reading bring us along further, reminding how Christ will “give us light” in the “darkness” and how we live “in the light” by seeking the Lord.

Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus cures the man born blind....Jesus: revealing He is the Shepherd Who cares for the one seen as unimportant—the blind man---; the Shepherd Who can do the impossible: curing the blindness of the man, challenging the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees, opening the eyes of the disciples to see the Power of the One Who alone is the Light of the World.

In this moment of time in salvation history, world history, personal history...in a time in which fear, uncertainty, and the threat of disease seem to have the “upper hand’ WE ARE CALLED TO BELIEVE IN THE ONE WHO ALWAYS HAS THE “UPPER HAND”—JESUS OUR TRUE SHEPHERD---OUR GOOD SHEPHERD---WHO DOES NOT ABANDON US AT ANY MOMENT IN LIFE.

Through the penance and purification of “the present time”, may our hearts rejoice that we can be ever closer to Christ in personal prayer, that He is always accessible to us when we turn to Him: for peace of mind, strength in illness, hope for the future.

As a “Eucharistic people” may we rejoice and give thanks that our Lord is with us.

Let us continue to pray for one another, and all people, in these days we face together.

----*Fr. Bill*