



Liturgy Cycle A

Fourth Sunday Of The Lent A Clearer View

Introduction

There are no accidents anymore. When a child falls from a tree or a shopper slips in the mall, choruses of “whose fault?” rebounds before the injured is up off the ground. Even when the injury is slight, we’re still focused on blame. Today’s scripture shows us this blame game was just as popular in Jesus’ day. When Jesus heals a blind man, the crowd wants to know who sinned, who caused the blindness. Odd, isn’t it? You’d think their focus would be praising the miraculous healing. Instead, the crowd’s eyes were as blind as the man had been, darkened by blame, blame, blame. And that image hits home for us today.

When hard times come along it’s easy to be blinded by anger and resentment. We’re so busy glaring at the source of our troubles; we can’t see God’s mercy pouring down on us. We see the sorrow, and miss the miracle. Take a moment and check your sight this week. If you find your eyes blinded by anger or blame, ask God to restore your sight. He’s right there waiting with a clearer view for you.

First Reading (Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

Israel's first king, Saul, was failing. The Lord sends the judge named Samuel to a small town to secretly find and anoint the next king. Samuel goes and invites the town's elders and their sons to a ritual sacrifice.

Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14)

The Ephesians were pagan converts. This reading is a reflection on the contrasts in their lives before and after their baptisms. The closing quotation is from an early baptismal hymn.

Gospel (John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

Early Jewish followers of Jesus began to suffer persecution and expulsion from synagogues. Saint John's gospel tried to get the indecisive converts to make their final commitment to Christ. Here John turns an early memory of a cure by Jesus into an extended teaching on conversion and its consequences.



Prayer Of The Faithful

Christ is now in our midst, the great Healer and Saviour whom John pointed out to his contemporaries. Let us pray that we may receive the fullness of his redemption and salvation.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the church: that Christ may heal in it the wounds caused by sin and division.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all nations: that the presence of Christ may bind them to one another in bonds of love and peace.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all the sick and the handicapped: that through the love and care of others they may find health and self worth.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That through the grace of the Holy Spirit we may constantly seek to overcome our sins so that we may live up to our dignity as children of God.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

The part of us which is most deeply damaged by sin is the heart. The heart is so beautiful, so innocent, but it can be destroyed, scorned, and broken.

A mother tells her how her three-year-old son was struck down with paralysis of the legs which gradually spread over his whole body. He became blind too.

One day, some months before he died, the mother was sitting weeping by his bedside, when he suddenly turned to her and said: 'Don't cry, Mummy, I still have a heart to love my Mummy.'

That small boy had attained real maturity. But he had only been to attain it through the love and support of his mother.

Love redeems and saves everything. It is the holy thing that can heal the wounds of the heart.