

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021 AT 10:00AM**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT SCRUTINY YEAR A READINGS**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

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,

*~all strike their breast~*

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.

*May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our  
sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

**FIRST READING**      *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a*

A reading from the first Book of Samuel  
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." 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—anooint 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.

The word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**      *23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6*

**R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul. **R/.**

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. **R/.**

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

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/.**

**SECOND READING**

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians  
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."*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

*John 8:12*

**R/.** **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life. **R/.**

**GOSPEL**

*John 9:1-41*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. [His  
disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his  
parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered,  
"Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works  
of God might be made visible through him. We have to  
do the works of the one who sent me while it is day.  
Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in  
the world, I am the light of the world." When he had  
said this,] 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." [So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know." ]

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."

[Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." ] 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, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. [Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

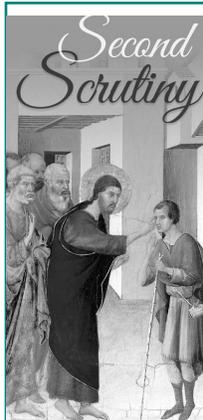
Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
~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.**



We cannot travel into the darkness without a source of light. Those going through the Second Scrutiny have come seeking light instead of darkness. When Jesus heals the blind man, he not only gives to him a physical sight that is real, but he also provides for him a new spiritual lens through which he can see the world. Those who witness the healing, those who then encounter the man, and even those who maintain a cynicism toward him, all have been offered this new way of seeing the world. Those of us who have been baptized have this gift of new sight, but too often we either choose to put on glasses of sin or despair or act like we cannot see that which exists clearly in front of us. We pray for those who will be baptized at Easter to be freed from their darkness, while we oftentimes choose to live with our eyes closed. As we listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel proclaiming he is the Light of the World, let us resolve to allow God to provide a light for our path so that we may share the good news of this Light with all around us.