

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Readings: 1) Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a 2) Ephesians 5:8-14 3) John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Sunday Liturgy

The Focus for the Mass today is the blind man's conversion of heart stands in stark contrast to the stubborn blindness of the Pharisees. Observing how a blind person negotiates his or her way through life is inspiring. Observing blindness of heart, however, is troubling. Those who are blind to the truth often stumble through life because of obstacles they place in their own paths. When we seek the truth of the Gospel, we are like the blind man who came to believe in the Son of Man.

Liturgy of the Word

At first, Samuel judges by appearances, then he is reminded by God to judge the heart in order to find a worthy candidate to anoint as king. Saint Paul challenges us to live as *children of light*. In the Gospel, we have a man, blind from birth, move from seeing Jesus as a prophet to seeing Jesus as the Promised One, while the blindness of the Pharisees remains.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

**PRIEST: Seeking to eradicate our own spiritual blindness,
let us petition our loving God to fill our hearts with his light.**

For Pope Francis, our clergy and all pastoral leaders,
may they help us to embrace the Light of Christ with all our hearts.
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For leaders of nations, may they shed any blindness to seeking power which
impedes them from serving the needs of all the people entrusted to their care.**
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who struggle with disabilities, may they receive whatever
assistance they need to fully share their gifts and talents with others.**
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For the Elect and candidates preparing to receive the Easter sacraments,
may the anticipated joy of being one with Christ
strengthen their resolve to be children of the Light.**
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick in mind and body;
may they know the compassionate love of Christ.
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those who have died and faithfully carried their crosses through life,
may they share in the victory won by Jesus in heaven.
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions, (long pause),
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

PRIEST:

**O God of Abraham and Father of Jesus, hear our prayer as we seek your
wisdom and guidance. Grant us greater clarity of spiritual sight and draw us
ever closer to you. We pray through Christ our Lord.**