

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prayer for the Morning

Awake, arise, sing praise!

Glory to the Father...Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn

Meter: 664 66 64

God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!
Savior, you came to give
Those who in darkness live
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inward blind:
Now to all humankind
Let there be light!

Psalm

36:6-13

*Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and
Christ will give you light. (cf. Eph 5:14)*

*At every hour are we called to awake from the
darkness of spiritual sleep into the glorious light of
Jesus Christ. We put our trust in the promise of that
eternal day when all shall awaken, with the man born
blind, in the kingdom of light, where they shall drink
from the stream of delight and see all things by the
one true light.*

Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven; your truth to
the skies. Your justice is like God's mountain, your
judgments like the deep. To both man and beast
you give protection. O Lord, how precious is your
love. My God, the sons of men find refuge in the
shelter of your wings.

They feast on the riches of your house; they drink
from the stream of your delight. In you is the
source of life and in your light we see light. Keep
on loving those who know you, doing justice for
upright hearts. Let the foot of the proud not crush
me nor the hand of the wicked cast me out.
See how the evil-doers fall! Flung down, they shall
never arise.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Revelation 21:2, 22, 25

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming
down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. I saw no temple in the

city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and
the Lamb. During the day its gates will never be
shut, and there will be no night there.

The Lord shall be your light forever. (Is 60:19)

Canticle of Zechariah

*Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but
will have the light of life. (Jn 8:12)*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has
come to his people and set them free. He has
raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house
of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that
he would save us from our enemies, from the
hands of all who hate us. He promised to show
mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy
covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free
to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in
his sight all the days of our life. You, my child,
shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for
you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to
give his people knowledge of salvation by the
forgiveness of their sins. In the tender
compassion of our God the dawn from on high
shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide
our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

Washed in the baptismal waters, the blind see. On
this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we pray once more for
all who seek God through full initiation into the
Church at Easter, for those who accompany them
on their journey, and for the communities who will
receive them:

R/Open our eyes, O Lord, to the wonders of your
love.

That God may dispel darkness – and be the light
that shines in all hearts. **R/**

That God may lead all to Christ, – for he is the light
of the world. **R/**

That all may see God – for he is the source of light
and truth. **R/**

That we may see God's light shining on the face of
Christ, – and that he may dim all lesser lights. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father...

*O God, through the Samaritan woman, inspire us
also to leave behind the heart's old water jars, grown
too small to hold the living water, and drink deeply at*

the well of salvation, that we may run with eagerness to proclaim the Gospel to all we meet, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reading 1 **1 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." 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.

Reading 2 **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.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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