

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

*Laetare Sunday/Rejoice Sunday*

## Living the Word

**With the absence of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Washington we at Jesus the Divine Word encourage our parishioners to join one another in prayer from our homes on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM, reading and reflecting on the word of God for this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent.**

**Theme:** Christ be our Light

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday/Rejoice Sunday*, we rejoice in the gift of salvation Christ won for us as the Church invites us to focus our attention on both the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light.

### Opening Prayer

O God, author and source of all light,  
you gaze into the depths of our inmost hearts.  
Never permit the powers of darkness  
to hold your people captive,  
but open our eyes by the grace of your Spirit,  
that we may be able to look on your Son  
and see the One you sent to illumine the world,  
so that, seeing, we may believe and worship  
Jesus as the Lord  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.  
Amen.

*(Prayer for Sundays and Seasons, Year A Fourth Sunday of Lent)*

### Gospel

*John 9:1-3, 5-9, 13-17, 34-38*

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.

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.”

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, the one speaking with you is he.”  
He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

### Reflection

“God makes himself visible through our lives, through the good or happy occurrences. But sometimes, as with the man born blind, we come to know God through the challenges we face. God works in us, even in dark times, shining a light of hope and faith and offering healing for body, heart or soul. God not only works un us, but also walks with us through all the good and the bad” (Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, 2019-2020).

**Challenge:** Choose a person in the parish for whom to pray, and commit to being present, bringing the light of Christ’s presence, to him or her.

### Let Us Pray

For the Church: May we stand before the world as a beacon of hope, leading people to trust God in all things ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For leaders of government: May they never forget the most vulnerable among us as they lead us through this difficult time ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the elect of the Church, those preparing for the waters of Baptism: May their eyes be opened to the truth of their lives and seek always the compassionate touch of the Savior ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For doctors, nurses and scientists: May God guide their work at caring for the sick and developing a treatment for the coronavirus ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are ill: May God bring them healing and restore them to their families and loved ones; we pray in particular for those who are sick with the coronavirus, for Frank Clarke, Edward Colgan, Denise Foss, Jimmie Gorski, Fran Heflin, David Kemeza, Kristy Kennedy-Thomas, Samantha Key, Patty Lee, Helen Mote, Charlotte Rank, Brian Stevens and Dave Thacker...we pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.

For the souls of the faithfully departed: May they be raised up with Christ and seated in the glory of heaven; we pray particularly for Geoff Lane ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...**

### **Closing Prayer**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and  
you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has instructed the hearts of your faithful by  
the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the same  
Holy Spirit we may have right judgment in all things  
and evermore rejoice in his consolations.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.