

# WEEKEND HOME WORSHIP AIDE



MARCH 21-22, 2020  
4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

**Prepare your space** | Turn off all electronics, light a candle, and sit in a comfortable chair

**Prepare your head** | "Things are not always what they appear." In our first reading we hear about how David is chosen as the unlikely future king of Israel. In the psalm we are reminded that when it seems God has abandoned us in the "dark valleys" of life, he is still our Good Shepherd walking beside us. St. Paul teaches us, we were once in darkness, but now we walk in the light of the Lord. Lastly, the Gospel tells the story of Jesus restoring the sight of a man blind from birth – and the people who don't recognize him are people who can see! As we prepare to reflect on this weekend's scripture, allow the readings to bring to light the "blind spots" in your life.



**Opening Song** | *Be Thou My Vision* by Audrey Assad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s> or scan the QR code with your smart phone (left)

**First Reading** | 1 SM 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. The word the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm** | PS 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 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** | EPH 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." The word the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel** | JN 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. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Reflection Questions**

1. What words/phrases strike you? Why?
2. Jesus' act of mixing spit with dirt is a symbol for Jesus (spit = coming from the mouth of God/divine nature & dirt = human nature), Jesus is the salve (saliva/salvation) that allows us to see properly. How has Jesus changed that way you see things? How has Jesus changed the way you respond to the Coronavirus?
3. Where the "blind spots in your life?"

## **Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Petitions | Response: **Lord, hear our prayer**

1. For all God's people, that we recognize our blindness and repent, so Christ may heal us, we pray.
2. For those in positions of power and authority throughout the world, give them wisdom and prudence and may they use their influence to effect positive change and promote the common good, we pray.
3. For all health care workers, and all public servants who care for us, that they may have a greater outpouring of perseverance, patience and trust, we pray.
4. For all those who are feeling the economic impact of these trying times, we pray.
5. For all those who are sick in body and spirit, those on our prayer tree and those dealing with the Coronavirus, and for their families, we pray.
6. For all those who have died, and for consolation to those who mourn, we pray.

We gather all these prayers and all those of our St. Francis of Assisi Parish family through Christ our Lord.

## Offertory

### St. Francis "Good Samaritan Fund"

We may not be yet feeling the full brunt of the Coronavirus in our own community, but there are many needs that will come to light in coming weeks. This fund helps prepare for immediate needs for those most vulnerable in our parish community. Find on the [www.st-francis.net](http://www.st-francis.net) homepage under "Welcome!"

### Volunteer

Are you willing able to contact our elder parishioners to help us assess their needs? Call the parish office:  
641-752-6278

### St. Francis of Assisi Parish

#### Electronic giving:

<https://www.st-francis.net/online-giving>

#### Mail to:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
107 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

## Our Father...

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### Closing Prayer

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendor of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Amen.

## Stay connected!

Website	<a href="http://www.st-francis.net">www.st-francis.net</a>
Text Notifications	Text <b>sfmtown</b> to phone number <b>84576</b> (yes, just 5 numbers!) for parish updates and cancelations
Facebook	Search "St. Francis of Assisi Marshalltown" and click like
YouTube	Daily reflections by Fr. Michael and Fr. Alan, search "St. Francis of Assisi Marshalltown" and click subscribe