



26 March 2017

## The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

Fourth Sunday Of Lent - 4º Domingo de Cuaresma

**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.

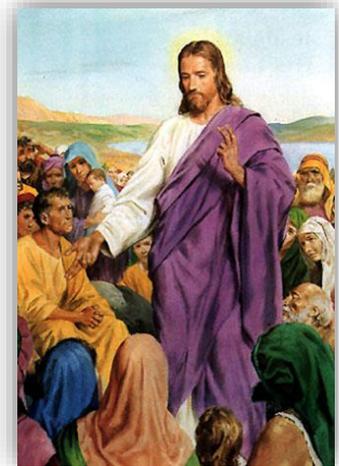


### Homily

*Rev. Deacon Suzanne Dilts*

The 4th Sunday of Lent is also known as Laetare Sunday. It is essentially the "Hump Day" or the middle of Lent. The word Laetare means to rejoice in Latin. We are to rejoice and let our hair down, so to speak because we have made it this far by sacrifice and prayer and doing good works in preparation for the holiest time of the church year. Now we should start to reflect on the sacrifices Jesus made for us by suffering and dying on the cross for our sins to prepare to rejoice with Him on Easter. We need to cleanse our hearts and souls to receive the risen Christ. He shepherded us from darkness and by His love and sacrifice brings us to eternal light.

The readings today talk about this. "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." "He refreshes my soul." These two quotes from the psalms, tell us of the opportunity each year to refresh our souls during Lent to be ready for the good news at Easter. During the remainder of Lent spend time reflecting on our sins and finding ways through prayer and sacrifice to follow Jesus through His passion, death and resurrection.



We keep trying for the light to lead us to goodness, righteousness, and truth to realize, Jesus died for our sins and rose again, full of life showing us that life is eternal, never ending. This eternal life we will experience after death when we join Him in heaven.

The gospel speaks of blindness. John uses physical blindness to explain sin. When we are in sin, we are in a state of blindness. We can't see the goodness of a person or situation that offends us, because we are blinded by our own blindness by dwelling on the bad instead of the good. We think of how it has affected poor me. We often hear, "You're not fair." Or "It's not fair." When we read today's gospel, we read about fairness and judgement. The Pharisees ask how Jesus can be without sin when He healed the blind man on the Sabbath, a day of rest. They didn't look at the good deed He did, only their perception of going against Hebrew Law. The Pharisees remind me of Bella at this age. She has to be right. She is at the age, where she can't see gray, only black and right. I can hear her saying to Aidan, "I'm right and you're wrong." We all tend to be like that at times where we fail to look at the good over the bad. We tend to judge everything and everybody in black and white and that's not our place since we only see it from our point of view. You never have the right to judge others, unless you have all the facts. In the words of the Dalai Lama, "Love is the absence of judgement."

Our relationship with God is very important. Don't put it aside! No two of us are alike. We have differences of opinion. We all have different priorities. Be kind to one another and don't judge. That's God's job.

So relax, enjoy the day of respite from Lent, take a deep breath and be ready to rejoin Jesus on His journey to His passion and sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins so we can celebrate His resurrection on Easter.

God Bless.

#### **Evangelio** Juan 9, 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

En aquel tiempo, Jesús vio al pasar a un ciego de nacimiento. Escupió en el suelo, hizo lodo con la saliva, se lo puso en los ojos al ciego y le dijo: "Ve a lavarte en la piscina de Siloé" (que significa 'Enviado'). Él fue, se lavó y volvió con vista. Entonces los vecinos y los que lo habían visto antes pidiendo limosna, preguntaban: "¿No es éste el que se sentaba a pedir limosna?" Unos decían: "Es el mismo". Otros: "No es él, sino que se le parece". Pero él decía: "Yo soy". Llevaron entonces ante los fariseos al que había sido ciego. Era sábado el día en que Jesús hizo lodo y le abrió los ojos. También los fariseos le preguntaron cómo había adquirido la vista. Él les contestó: "Me puso lodo en los ojos, me lavé y veo". Algunos de los fariseos comentaban: "Ese hombre no viene de Dios, porque no guarda el sábado". Otros replicaban: "¿Cómo puede un pecador hacer semejantes prodigios?" Y había división entre ellos. Entonces volvieron a preguntarle al ciego: "Y tú, ¿qué piensas del que te abrió los ojos?" Él les contestó: "Que es un profeta". Le replicaron: "Tú eres puro pecado desde que naciste, ¿cómo pretendes darnos lecciones?" Y lo echaron fuera. Supo Jesús que lo habían echado fuera, y cuando lo encontró, le dijo: "¿Crees tú en el Hijo del hombre?" Él contestó: "¿Y quién es, Señor, para que yo crea en él?" Jesús le dijo: "Ya lo has visto; el que está hablando contigo, ése es". Él dijo: "Creo, Señor". Y postrándose, lo adoró.

