



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2020
SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND HOLY MASS DUE TO COVID 19

OPENING LENTEN HYMN: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did ev'r such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

In the name of the ✠ Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for bringing me safely to the beginning of a new day. Keep me safe throughout the day from temptation, sin and evil. O Lord, by Your help and guidance may my thoughts, words and all that I do be in accordance with Your holy will. Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O God, from the depth of my heart I am sorry for sinning against You. Through my sins I have turned away from You, displeased You and offended You. I promise to confess my sins, to do penance and with Your grace to amend my life by following You closely and keeping Your commandments.

ENTRANCE HYMN

V. Lead out the people who are blind though they have eyes; who are deaf though they have ears. Let all the nations gather together, let the peoples assemble!

R. Pay attention to this, foolish and senseless people who have eyes and see not, who have ears and hear not. Should you not fear Me, says the Lord, should you not tremble before Me?

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, enlighten our minds with Your unchanging truth. Always believing in the Son of God may we be led in the ways of salvation. We ask this in the Name of our Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

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.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL: John 8:12

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ, King of the endless glory
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ, King of the endless glory

THE GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

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.

We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day.

Night is coming when no one can work.

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.” So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes
and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’

So I went there and washed and was able to see.”

And they said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I don’t know.”

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.”

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight.

They asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?

How does he now see?”

His parents answered and said,

“We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes.

Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.”

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue.

For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.”

So a second time they called the man who had been blind

and said to him, “Give God the praise!

We know that this man is a sinner.”

He replied, “If he is a sinner, I do not know.

One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”

So they said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again?

Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

They ridiculed him and said, “You are that man’s disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from.”

The man answered and said to them,

“This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes.

We know that God does not listen to sinners,

but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him.

It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind.

If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.”

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.

Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment,

so that those who do not see might see,

and those who do see might become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this

and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?”



Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to You Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION – *Adapted and revised from One Bread, One Body*

Jesus told the Pharisees they were blind, He called them blind guides and blind fools (Mt. 23:16, 17, 24, 26). He called the apostles blind when He exclaimed: “Are your minds completely blinded? Have you eyes but no sight?”

Jesus may be calling us spiritually blind right now. How will we take Jesus’ diagnosis of our condition? Will we become defensive, or will we thank Jesus for telling us the truth? The Pharisees got angry at Jesus for calling them blind. They blinded themselves to being blind. They resented the man cured of blindness and threw him out of the synagogue (Jn 9:34). They even tried to impose blindness on everyone else. The Pharisees became so blind that they became darkness. As darkness, they hated the light. They did not accept Jesus as the light of the world and demanded that He be crucified.

Let us make sure that we don’t allow spiritual blindness to come over us. Allow Jesus to heal us from being blind to our spiritual blindness and during this Holy and Sacred Journey let us draw ourselves closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in word and action. Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart!

NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of 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 and giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

COMMUNION VERSE

I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believe in me might not remain in darkness.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son endured the loneliness and darkness of the cross the gain for us eternal life with You. We thank You that in the Eucharist we experience the light of Your countenance and know that we are never abandoned. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIME OF NATIONAL ANXIETY

Let us pray.

I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of our country. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of our people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANGELUS – ASKING THE INTERCESSION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

- V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary ...
- V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to your word.
Hail Mary...
- V. And the Word was made Flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary ...
- V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we ask You, pour forth Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the ✠ Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



CLOSING HYMN FOR REFLECTION:

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord – Michael Smith *(You can listen to this hymn on YouTube)*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You – *repeats twice*

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy – *repeats three times*

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you – *repeats twice*

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you – *Repeats several times*

*Compiled from 2006 PNCC Missal and the 2010 PNCC Prayer Book
by Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr.
Chairman, PNCC National Liturgical Commission
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