

FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAR. 14-15, 2026a

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Reading

Jn 9:1-41

As he 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, "[So] 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 Messiah, 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 and 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.

Intercession

Lord, open our eyes to your truth. Help us find ways to spread this truth, such as supporting the **Annual Appeal**, so that all we meet may experience your saving grace.

Copy for Bulletin Announcement

It's difficult to wrap our brains around suffering. When bad things happen, we want to know why. Why does a good and faithful servant of the Lord have to suffer a protracted and painful death? Why is an innocent child born with a heart defect or must battle cancer? Why does one

neighbor lose his home to a natural disaster while another escapes the storm's wrath? We want to give pain meaning, to understand its purpose.

That's what the disciples are wondering when they ask Jesus why the man in today's Gospel is blind. Is his lack of sight a physical manifestation of his sinfulness? Or his parents'? Is God punishing him for some transgression? No, Jesus says. Our Father is loving. Just as our parents would not wish us ill, neither does our Heavenly Father. Pain and suffering exist, but not because God actively wills it. Sorrows in this life are an opportunity to experience God's grace, to draw closer to Him, to identify with the suffering Christ endured on the cross for us. The man's blindness—and cure—helped advance Jesus' ministry in making God known on earth: "it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

Funds raised by the **Annual Appeal** help ease suffering by making God's love and mercy tangible through the Church's ministries and programs that the Appeal supports. Please prayerfully consider easing others' burdens with a gift to the **Annual Appeal**.

Copy for Pulpit Announcement

There are two types of blindness in John's Gospel today. The man to whom Jesus restores sight is physically blind. But the Pharisees are spiritually blind. Threatened by Jesus and his growing number of disciples, they look for ways to dismiss the miracles that point to Christ's divinity. They resort to legalities, attributing Jesus' curing of the man's blindness on the Sabbath, as a sign that Jesus is a sinner. Someone who does not keep the tenants of their religion couldn't possibly be a good Jew, let alone a prophet or the long-awaited Messiah!

Jesus came to bring light to the world. He is the bearer of truth, God's truth. The blind man sees this light; the Pharisees refuse to. When we sustain ministries that bring Christ's compassion to those who need it most, like the ministries the **Annual Appeal** supports, we are saying that we believe Jesus is the light of the world and has the power to heal afflicted.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Smiling face, upturned to the sun.

Header: "I was blind and now I see." – John 9:25

Copy: Look at the world around you through Jesus' eyes.

There are so many ways we can shine a light on God working in our midst, like contributing to the **Annual Appeal**.