

MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Faith sees while absolute certainty blinds.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1:4-19	Jeremiah's call
Thursday	Proverbs 15:1-5	The Lord sees everything
Friday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." John 9:39 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, heal us of our blindness that keeps us from loving you and our neighbor through Jesus Christ, the one who came that we may see. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food that reminds us of your overflowing goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen. (Psalm 23)

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ's love shine on you with all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Christ, Be Our Light



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a time you were in a conversation and convinced you were right.
- How is faith in Jesus something different than being sure that you are right and others are wrong?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 9:1-41.

This story addresses extreme contrasts between sight and blindness, between those who see and those who do not see. Jesus heals a man born blind. The certainty of the Pharisees becomes their blindness. They try to refute the fact that the man was born blind. They despise him and drive him out for stating both the truth of the Jewish faith and saying that he was blind and now sees. Both the truth of the tradition and his experience are totally rejected. Jesus points out that it is the leaders' absolute certainty that shows how blind they are to the truth. There are times in our own lives when being absolutely certain about something and not seeking other possibilities shows our blindness. This story reminds us that faith and trust in Jesus is wiser and more honest than arrogant, self-confidence. Faith sees Jesus and his ability to create light and life. Human certainty is always in danger of being blind to who Jesus is and what he means for the world that God loves.

Discuss: How might your pride, sense of certainty, and arrogance get in the way of caring about others?

Pray: **God of truth, help us to let go of anything that blinds us to your love and work in the world so that we may see Jesus and follow him with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you address others with humility and the ability to learn from them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week think or talk about the needs of those who are blind or cannot see well. Some are unable to pay for glasses or receive medical care. Add a donation to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

Pray: **Loving God, help us to care for those in need of good eyesight. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org