

Liturgy of the Word

4th Sunday of Lent, A

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Penitential Act

Leader: To prepare us to listen to the Word of God, let us remember when we have failed to live as sons and daughters of God

Leader: For the times when we have not loved as God loves us.
Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy**

Leader: For the times when we have not forgiven as God forgives us.
Christ, have mercy

All: **Christ have mercy**

Leader: For the times when we have not been thankful for all God's gifts. Lord, have mercy

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to life everlasting

All: **Amen.**

Opening prayer

Leader: O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your glory and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Scripture Readings

First Reading

Reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reflection

(Everyone is invited to share their reflections on the readings)

Reciting of the Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of intercessions

Leader: Lord, we know you are close to us, you know our hearts better than we do. Please hear our prayers for us, for our family and our community

Spontaneous prayers from individuals end with: Lord, Hear us and All respond with: Lord, Hear our prayer

Leader: Lord, you never leave us when we are in trouble. Hear these our prayers and any other prayers in our hearts. And we make these prayers through Christ our Lord. All: Amen

Act of Spiritual Communion

All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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

Final Blessing

(Leader will say final blessing while everyone making the sign of Cross)

Leader: May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evils and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.