

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

2nd March 2008

(Shorter Readings)

## First Reading

1 Sam. 16:1, 6-7, 10-13a

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23(22)

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

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of  
darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and  
your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **R.**

## Second Reading

Eph. 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Glorify to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

**Glorify to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

**R. Glorify to you Lord Christ.**

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him.

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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