

Homily ~ Lent IV (A) > March 15, 2026.

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally called Laetare Sunday. *Laetare* means “Rejoice.” Even in the middle of our Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and repentance, the Church gives us a moment of joy because Easter is drawing near. We rejoice because God is at work in our lives, bringing us from darkness into light.

Today’s readings remind us of a serious spiritual problem: blindness - not just physical blindness, but spiritual blindness.

In the first reading, God sends the prophet Samuel to choose a new king for Israel. Samuel looks at the strong and impressive sons of Jesse and thinks one of them must be God’s choice. But God tells him: “*Not as man sees does God see.*” Humans look at appearances, but God looks at the heart. In the end, God chooses the youngest and least expected son - David. This reminds us how easily we can be mistaken in our judgments. We often think we see clearly, but without God’s help, we can be very blind.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Ephesians: “*You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*” To follow Christ means to live in goodness, truth, and righteousness. When Christ enters our lives, He opens our eyes so that we can see clearly what is right and what truly matters.

The Gospel gives us a powerful example. Jesus heals a man who was born blind. The amazing thing is that the man who could not see physically gradually comes to see spiritually. At first he calls Jesus “the man called Jesus.” Later he calls Him “a prophet.” Finally he recognizes Him as the Son of Man and worships Him. His physical sight is restored, but even more importantly, his faith is awakened.

Meanwhile, the Pharisees - who believe they know everything about God - remain spiritually blind. They refuse to recognize the truth standing before them.

The message is clear: those who admit their blindness can receive sight; those who think they already see may remain blind.

My dear Ones, this Gospel invites us to ask an honest question: Where are the blind spots in our own lives?

Of course all of us have them. Sometimes we are blind in our relationships - in our marriages, in our families, or at work. Sometimes we fail to see the needs of people around us. We may be blind to the suffering of the poor, the lonely, or the struggling. At times we may even be blind to God’s presence within us and within others.

But the good news is that Jesus wants to heal our blindness. Just as He opened the eyes of the man born blind, He can open our spiritual eyes too. That is why Lent is so important. Through prayer, through reading Scripture, through Confession, and through the Eucharist, Christ gradually clears our vision.

We must also be careful about cultural blindness. Our society often becomes blind to the true values of life - selfless love, faithfulness in marriage, respect for human life, and compassion for those who suffer. The world can make us numb to violence, injustice, and moral confusion.

As Christians, we are called to be children of the light. That means seeing people as God sees them - as His beloved children. It means choosing truth over convenience, love over selfishness, and compassion over indifference.

Let me conclude with that beautiful prayer: "Lord, help us see Christ more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly day by day."

May Jesus, the Light of the world, open our eyes so that we may walk in His light - today, during this Lent, and always.