

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

GOSPEL READING FOR VOICES



THE MAN BORN BLIND

John 9: 1-41

GOSPEL FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The reading of this gospel may require five voices.

Celebrant: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator: **As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him,**

Disciples: Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?

Jesus: **Neither he nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'**

Narrator: **Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him,**

Jesus: **Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam,**

Narrator: **(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,**

Crowd: Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?

Narrator: **Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one'. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said,**

Blind Man: I am the man.

Narrator: **So they said to him,**

GOSPEL FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Crowd: 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?'

Blind Man: The man called Jesus made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.

Crowd: Where is he?

Blind Man: I don't know.

Narrator: 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,

Blind Man: He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.

Narrator: Then some of the Pharisees said,

Crowd: This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.

Narrator: Others said,

Crowd: How could a sinner produce signs like this?

Narrator: And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again.

Crowd: What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?

Blind Man: He is a prophet!

Narrator: However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered,

GOSPEL FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Crowd: We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.

Narrator: His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him'. So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him,

Crowd: 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.'

Blind Man: I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.

Crowd: What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

Blind Man: I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?

Narrator: At this they hurled abuse at him.

Crowd: You can be his disciple; we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.

Blind Man: Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.'

Crowd: Are you trying to teach us, and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!'

Narrator: And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him,

GOSPEL FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus: **Do you believe in the Son of Man?**

Blind Man: Sir, tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.

Jesus: **You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.**

Blind Man: Lord, I believe!

Narrator: **And he worshipped him.**

Jesus: **It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.**

Narrator: **Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him,**

Crowd: We are not blind, surely?

Jesus: **Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.**

Celebrant: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ