

Service for Week 9th -15th March
2026 Fourth Sunday in Lent By
Chaplain Andy



Our Opening Prayer

Loving God, help us to truly believe that, not just in our minds but also in our hearts, to put our trust wholly in you, confident that you will never fail us.

May we receive the freedom that you offer, which comes from knowing that you hold all things in your hands and that nothing can finally separate us from your love in Jesus Christ.

Amen

Say to yourself - The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven

Amen

Bible Reading John 9:1-11

As he (Jesus) went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of

Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

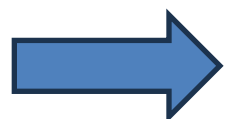
Continuing Reading John 9:32-39

(They said) Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Holy words, Holy Wisdom,

Thanks be to God.



Reflection

Some people in New Testament times still believed that if someone suffered from a physical disease or disability it was because they or their ancestors had committed a sin. This goes back to a belief by ancient civilizations who looked on God as providing health and protection if they were obedient. But if they sinned the contract was broken and sickness followed. This wrong concept, at a time of ignorance about genetics and health, continued with a mistaken understanding of verses in Scripture.

So, it was an idea still in the minds of some in Jesus' time despite the Old Testament book of Job where Job's friends think he must have sinned to deserve his suffering, while the conclusion is that suffering can be beyond our comprehension, rather than a punishment from God.

To answer their question of 'who sinned' Jesus says "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." What Jesus is telling them is that God is using the fact of the man's blindness to convince them, through the power of healing, that he was the Son of God - was of God.

Jesus then miraculously gave sight to the man. When the man told them that he could now see clearly, his

neighbors, who knew the beggar had been born blind, thought that this must be a different man. They did not believe him and threw him out.

Jesus used this encounter with the blind beggar to demonstrate the work of God and had this message for the man, and us, that Jesus came so that the blind could see. Jesus was talking, not about physical blindness but spiritual blindness. Jesus brought the truth about God and light into our world.

If we allow God to, he can change our way of thinking and heal minds that have been taken over by evil thoughts and intentions. Jesus tells us that the spiritually blind will see- will see how the love of God demonstrated through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, conquers all.

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Jesus came to reveal our spiritual state and bring light to the world, those who reject God remain blind to his truth.

Jesus said "I am the light of the world."

Amen

Our Closing Prayer

Loving God open my eyes to bring your truth and light into my life.

In Jesus name. **Amen.**

Prayer inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett