

MARCH 22, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



God does not judge as we judge.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	James 4:11-12	Warning against judging others
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-11	God's ways are not our ways
Friday	Matthew 7:1-5	Judging others
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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." **1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to see as you see, not be judgmental, and to show mercy as you show us mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, thank you for providing us with this food, a sign of your overflowing love. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may God look on you with favor and give you peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord of All Hopefulness



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time someone did something that really changed your understanding of that person.
- Why is it that we sometimes judge ourselves or others too harshly?
- God's judgment is about love and mercy. How does knowing this help you think about yourself and others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 9:1-41 out loud.

One person is narrator and other people speak the different voices in the story of the man born blind. In John 9 Jesus sees in the blind man a person who needs sight, not someone whose sin is greater than anyone else's (vv. 1-7). In 1 Samuel the prophet is to anoint a new king, but Samuel is not able to perceive or see what God sees. A scrawny, youngest son (David) who is originally not even considered, is chosen by God to be king. Thank God that our Lord sees and judges by a standard far from our own. May the light that God brings into the world help us to see ourselves and others with humility, hope, and compassion. Think of something that bothers you about your own life situation or that of someone you know. How might God see it differently and with more understanding and compassion?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, thank you for your ways that conquer human blindness with hope and new life. Amen.**

SERVICE



One characteristic of a Christian is to be available when needed. Being available to serve others nurtures the Christian faith and life through the power of the Holy Spirit. This takes us to areas of ministry far outside the walls of a local congregation to living our faith in daily life. In what ways do you reflect this characteristic in your daily life? Is there an organization or someone near you who would benefit from you being available to volunteer?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the fourth week in Lent, light four of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "S", for Supplication, meaning to humbly ask God to provide something for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

Pray: **Dear God, just as you healed the blind man, I ask for your healing in the lives of those who are in need of your loving presence including . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org