

Order of Service, Readings, and Prayer

4th Sunday in Lent

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

THE GATHERING

Welcome

Parish Announcements

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- *Hymn *“There Is a Balm in Gilead”* No. 614
- *Greeting & Kyrie p. 138
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- First Reading – 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Psalm 23 (read responsively) Insert
- Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14
- *The Gospel Acclamation “Return To The Lord” p. 142
- *Holy Gospel John 49:1-41
- Children’s Message** Rev. Tim Smith
- Noisy Sunday -
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RESPONSE TO THE WORD

- The Message** Rev. Tim Smith
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- The Apostles’ Creed back of hymnal
- *The Prayers of Intercession p. 143
- P: Hear us, O God.
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****The Congregation will stand in reverence***



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13 [not printed]

Psalm

Psalm 23; tone 4



The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down
¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways
¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they ¹ comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell
in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14 [not printed]

Gospel

John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When

he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept

continued

Gospel, continued

saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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."

¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that

this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

TODAY'S READINGS March 15, 2026

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Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

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