



IV Sunday of LENT – 19th of March 2023 - Cycle A

OPEN THE EYES



SETTING

May my transparent gaze be yours, Lord. Be your Lord of the clean look, who opens our eyes and gives us back the look that the world needs today; soft, serene, comforting, empowering, healing. May our look be an expression of our life that wants to be from you.

Let us keep growing and be the light that allows others to see what you see and want what you want.

Heal with your gesture the blindness that is in us. Wake up our look that searches the face of the other.

I believe Lord in you, that you offer me to return my sight, to get out of my darkness, to resume life in my hands.

Teach me your way of looking at the world, at life, at each person.

In your style, in your way, walk free, open to everything, welcoming everyone.

SONG. YOU ARE MY REFUGE: Joel Lasarado

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoE-q8bSrzM>

GOSPEL – John 9, 1.6-9.13-17.34-38 (Short reading)

“At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, smeared it on the blind man's eyes and told him: "Go wash in the pool of Siloam (which means Envoy)." He went, washed, and came back with sight. And the neighbours and those who used to see him ask for alms before would ask: "Is not that the one who sat down to beg?" Some said: "The same." Others said: "It's not him, but it looks like him." He would answer: "It's me." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. It was Saturday the day that Jesus made clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees also asked him how he had acquired his sight. He answered them: "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees commented: "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others replied: "How can a sinner make such signs?" And they were divided. And they asked the blind man again: "And you, what do you say about the one who has opened your eyes?" He answered: "he is a prophet." They replied, "You are nothing but sin from your birth, and are you going to give us lessons?" And they expelled him. When Jesus heard that he had been expelled, he found him and said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered: "Tell me who is so that I may believe in him" Jesus said: "You have seen him: he is speaking to you." The man said: "I believe, Lord." prostrated himself before him.

We deepen in the Gospel

Today's text is the closest thing to an illustration of what Saint John said, at the beginning of his Gospel, which is called "the prologue": "The Word was the true light that, coming into the world, illuminates the whole world." humanity. The Word was in the world and the world was made by him, and the world did not recognize him. This is what we could call the drama of the gospels. And John continues: “But to those who received him and who believe in his name, power has been given to become children of God. This is exactly what happens in today's story: the drama of those who oppose Jesus and stubbornly refuse to recognize him as the one sent by God; but also, luckily, the salvation of those who have the joy, the grace to open their eyes today, as our blind man opened them at the time. Because John insists to make us understand that there are two types of blindness: natural blindness, which is what this man

endures from the day he was born, and the other, much more serious blindness, which is blindness of the heart. In the text, in the first encounter with the blind man, Jesus performs a gesture that cures his natural blindness. In their second encounter, it is the heart of the blind man that Jesus opens to another light, the true light.

Although, once again, we run into the same problem: how is it possible that the one who has been sent into the world to bring the light of God has been rejected, precisely, by those who awaited it with the greatest fervour? However, in the time of Jesus, this question of whether Jesus really is "the one sent by the Father"...the one who has been expected for centuries, or if he is an impostor, is the great question and the one that will accompany the whole life of Jesus. Jesus: Is he the Messiah or not?

Jesus performs very good works, precisely those that the Messiah was expected to perform: it was known that he would give sight to the blind, speech to the dumb, and hearing to the deaf: but Jesus, it seems, does not care at all about the Sabbath, in fact, this episode of the man blind from birth takes place on a Sabbath day precisely. And, of course, if he were sent by God as he pretends, surely he would respect the Sabbath. One thing is clear: it had never been heard that a man had opened the eyes of a man blind from birth. If Jesus did not come from God, he could not do anything he does. But, the same story always happens: he who closes himself in his certainties cannot even open his eyes; However, he who takes a step forward, on the path of faith, is ready to accept the grace that is offered to him and, then, he can receive the true light from Jesus!

Clues for Prayer

-What has caught your attention the most from the story we have heard in the Gospel? What can you do to grow in your life of faith?

-How do you engage with the faith of those around you?

-How do you collaborate with your lifestyle in the extension of the Kingdom of God?

AMBIENTAL MUSIC. Ehren Starks - DAD'S SONG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQH58w7Ih5I>

TAKE OFF THE SALE

Sometimes we look without seeing
Sometimes we believe, we see, without looking.
There are lasting blindness and
There is almost constant blindness.
Allow Lord,
To see again,
That finds meaning
In being and in doing, with you.
Put clarity with the gesture
And with the word
Look at things, people,
Feel the life in them.
Make it possible for others
Be, vibrate, live.
Touch my eyes
And in your gesture infuse your light.
See, feel, and touch.
See, think, question myself
Become a channel of gazes.
Sometimes even with open eyes, we do not see,

Or we do not want to see.
Feel, smell, taste life.
That our gaze questions,
Provoke reaction.
Look deep,
In the simple look.
Look deep into life
What is it?
Look and wonder
What do i want to see?
If you want, you get involved.
If you want, excuse me.
If you want, you love.
If you want, you allow.
If you want, you help.
Counting to see supposes
Courage, risk, possibility.
Take one step to another.
Want to see,
Unite paths
Want to see requires
Disposition, delivery,
Search and challenges
I want to see,
Is to let yourself be in Him

SONG. Who Am I – Casting Crown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBcqria2wmg>



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