

IV SUNDAY OF LENT

15 March 26 - CYCLE A



MUD AND LIGHT.

Eyes that learn to see Today is the Sunday of joy, but a joy born from mud and light.

We live surrounded by opinions and diagnoses, yet we struggle to truly see, to look until we recognize a face. Today's readings offer us another way of seeing: God's way, which doesn't remain on the surface, but looks into the heart. When Jesus encounters the man born blind, he doesn't look for someone to blame; he bends down, touches the mud, and restores dignity to the one who lived forgotten on the margins of life.

May this Encounter heal our vision. May we leave seeing a little more, without suspicion, without labels, with mercy.

CANTO. ERES LA LUZ – FRAY NACHO

https://youtu.be/MISO3p6ZGQQ?si=VWOotQBhi_jjA0qT

GOSPEL– John 9, 1.6-9.13-17.34-38

“At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared it on the man’s eyes. Then he told him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So, the man went and washed and came back seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he looks like him.” He himself said, “I am he.” They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He answered, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. And they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?” He replied, “He is a prophet.” They retorted, “You were born sinful, and yet you presume to teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to them, “You have seen him, and he is the one speaking to you.” He said, “I believe, Lord.” And he worshiped him.

To delve deeper into the Word today

1Sm 16, b.6-7,10. 13. Often perplexing, God's choices are not arbitrary, for the Lord looks at the heart and not at appearances.

Psalm 22,1-6. Often perplexing, God's choices are not arbitrary, for the Lord looks at the heart and not at appearances.

Ephesians 5, 8-14. An exhortation addressed to those who have received Baptism. Be more and more each day what you are: children of light.

John 9, 1.6-9.13-17.34-38 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 gives light to all humanity. The Word was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him." This is what we might call the drama of the Gospels. And John continues: "But to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, the right to become children of God was given." This is precisely 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, thankfully, the salvation of those who have the joy, the grace, to open their eyes today, just as our blind man opened his in his time. Because John insists on making us understand that there are two kinds of blindness: natural blindness, which this man has had since the day he was born, and another, much more serious kind of blindness, which is the 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 blind man's heart that Jesus opens to another light, the true light. Yet, once again, we stumble upon the same problem: How is it possible that the one sent into the world to bring the light of God was rejected precisely by those who awaited him with the greatest fervour? But the same story always unfolds: those who close themselves off in their certainties cannot even open their eyes; however, those who take a step forward on the path of faith are ready to receive the grace offered to them and then, can receive the true light from Jesus!

I pray with the Word

Jesus heals a man born blind who trusted in Him. Those who are closed off in their own certainties do not recognize Jesus. I ask myself, which side am I on? We live in a complicated global situation; what forms of blindness are most prevalent in our world? We pray for peace at every level of our lives. Lord, give us your light!



SIGLOS – FERNANDO LEIVA

<https://youtu.be/Yj75VhSNIYI?si=rMnb0NgX4SdEt8Wq>

WHEN LIGHT TOUCHES MUD

We too arrive blind,
not with the eyes that see
the light of day,
but with that other gaze
that recognizes a face
and doesn't pass by.

You don't ask who was to
blame, you don't look for
reasons or deserving.

You bend down to the mud
and touch what no one wants to
touch our deepest fragility.

Teach us not to classify
before listening,
not to judge before getting close,
not to use your name
to exclude those who already
have enough to bear being alone.

May we not be content
with seeing much
if in the end we love little.

May faith not harden us
but open us,
moving us toward others.

When someone is expelled,

give us the courage to go out
and find them,
not to stay on the safe side,
to move toward the periphery
where you always are.

Let us be light,
not the kind that dazzles and
blinds,
but the kind that accompanies,
the kind that illuminates without
judging,
the kind that arrives just in time.

Inspire our weary gaze,
the gaze that is no longer
surprised,
the gaze that has learned to look
without seeing.

Give us back the eyes of the
heart the eyes you gave us.

The last word does not belong
to the label,
nor the rumor,
nor the prejudice.

The last word belongs to You,
and that word always calls us by
name.

CANTO. HAS DECIDIDO QUERERME FRAY NACHO

<https://youtu.be/5f1090-XiIY?si=gFqhH3T00B3egqoE>

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