

**Sunday 15 March 2026**  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)*

**First Reading - 1 Samuel 16.1b,4-7,10-13a**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord sent Samuel

to the home of Jesse, in Bethlehem,  
saying, 'I have chosen, for myself, a king,  
amongst the sons of Jesse.'

In Bethlehem, Samuel invited

Jesse and his sons, and all the elders of the city,  
to meet with him, in peace,  
and make a sacrifice to the Lord.

Once they had gathered, Samuel first saw  
Jesse's eldest son, Eliab.

Samuel thought that Eliab  
would surely be the Lord's anointed.

But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not  
look upon his height, or his appearance,  
for I have rejected him.

Mortals may look  
on the outward appearance,  
but the Lord  
looks on the heart.'

Jesse presented six more of his sons  
to Samuel.

But Samuel said, 'Are all  
your sons here?

For the Lord has not chosen  
any of these.'

Jesse replied, 'There remains only the youngest,  
and he is out, watching over the sheep.'

Samuel said, 'Send for him;  
and we will not eat  
until he arrives.'

When the youngest son arrived,  
the Lord immediately said to Samuel,  
'Rise, and anoint him, for he is the one.'

Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed David  
in the presence of his brothers.

And the Spirit of the Lord  
came powerfully  
upon David  
from that day forward.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Ephesians 5.8-11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Once, you were in darkness;  
but now, you are in the light  
of the Lord.

So live  
as children of the light,  
in the fruitful ways  
of goodness, righteousness, and truth,  
seeking always  
what is pleasing  
to the Lord.

And take no part  
in the fruitless works of darkness;  
but expose them, instead, to the light.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - John 9.1-7,14,16-17,33-39**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

After leaving the temple,

Jesus and his disciples  
saw a man who had been blind from birth.

The disciples asked Jesus,  
'Why was this man born blind?

Was it for his own sins,  
or for the sins of his parents?'

Jesus answered, 'Neither;  
but that the works of God  
could be revealed in him.

I am the light of the world,  
and while it is day,  
we must do the works  
of the one who sent me.'

Then Jesus spat on the ground,  
made mud with the saliva,  
and spread the mud

on the man's eyes,  
saying to him, 'Go and wash  
in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent).

The man went,  
and washed;  
and came back,  
able to see.

All of this happened  
on the sabbath.

The Pharisees  
began to argue amongst themselves.

Some insisted, 'This Jesus  
cannot be from God,  
for he does not  
observe the sabbath.'

But others said, 'If he were a sinner,  
he could not perform  
such signs.'

The man who had been  
healed of his blindness

said, 'Surely  
his good works show  
that he is a prophet.'

The Pharisees said,  
'You were born in sin,  
and you presume to teach us?'

And they drove him out.

Jesus found him, and said to him,  
'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'

He answered, 'Who is that, sir?  
Tell me, so that I may believe.'

Jesus said, 'You have seen him,  
and you are speaking with him.'

He said, 'Lord, I believe,'  
and worshipped him.

Jesus said, 'For judgement  
I have come into the world:  
to bring sight  
to the blind,

and to expose the blindness  
of those who think they can see.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.