Readings Sunday, March 15, 2026
4th Sunday in Lent

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him
from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse
the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel
said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a
heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the
sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one
whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to
Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come
peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify
yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons
and invited them to the sacrifice.
6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now
before the LORD." 7 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."
8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither
has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said,
"Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before
Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."
11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the
youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring
him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now
he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and
anoint him, for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in
the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from
that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm: Psalm 23

1 The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
2 The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.
3 You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

Second Reading: **Ephesians 5:8-14**

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,
9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out
what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather,
expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly,
13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes
visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

1 As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him,
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus
answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's
works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it
is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the
light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with
the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the
pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to
see. 8 The 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?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others
were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they
kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He 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." 12 They said to him, "Where is
he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it
was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then 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." 16 Some of the Pharisees said,
"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How
can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So 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.”
18 The 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 19 and asked them, “Is
this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His
parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but 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.” 22 His 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. 23 Therefore his parents said,
“He is of age; ask him.”
24 So 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.” 25 He answered, “I do not
know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”
26 They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He
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?” 28 Then they reviled him,
saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has
spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30 The
man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from,
yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does
listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has
it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were
not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in
sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

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