

Readings at Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

FIRST READING

I SAMUEL 16.1B, 6-7, 10-13A

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

In those days: *The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'*

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' 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 sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down 'til he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 23(22). 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6; R. V. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me; / he revives my soul. **R.**

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. **R.**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 5.8-14

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right

and true; and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Jesus the Christ, o-be-di-ent for us, Humbled himself to death upon a Cross. R.

GOSPEL

JOHN 9.1-41

'He went and washed and received his sight'

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

The numbers of this evening's Entrance and Offertory hymns are displayed on the boards on the pillars.

This evening's incense is Desert Flower