

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

Today throughout our country there is no public celebration of the Eucharist. In these unprecedented days the Church encourages us to unite with one another in prayer. The Scriptures are a unique resource for nurturing our spiritual life and can carry us through these challenging times. I hope over these coming weeks to offer brief reflections on the Liturgy of the Word that we listen to each Sunday. May we never forget that “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12).

The Gospel today is about a man born blind. Jesus tells us straight-out that in the man born blind we do not have just another miracle. The miracle is a sign. It is about the triumph of light over darkness. In curing the blind man, Jesus acts out what he had proclaimed earlier, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).

It seems lovely, but what does it mean? It can be difficult to think of Jesus as light. It is easy enough to see him as a baby resting on straw; as a healer cleansing a leper; even as risen from the grave. But Jesus as light? What does it mean?

It means that redemption, touches our mind. Our minds were darkened by sin, and God came to tear away the darkness. How? By revealing the truth; a brilliant light for our minds. Jesus told us secrets unsuspected about God and the image of God that is every man and woman. But this light is not enough. Revelation calls for a response. If God speaks to us, it is so we might speak to God. If the first light is revelation, the corresponding light is faith. And faith indeed is a light. Faith enables me to use God’s eyes to see, and so in the dark I can know breath-taking truths that only God has a right to see.

What might all this say to us in the darkness of these days? This Sunday we are unable to gather as a community and celebrate the Eucharist. What makes us a community, literally one with one another? Not only the Creed we recite together; not only the hymns we sing as one; not only the Host on our hand or on our tongue. It’s our ceaseless effort to be the Body of Christ in the darkness of our world. Our compassion for the vulnerable and suffering in our midst during these dark days. So even though we cannot gather as a community this Sunday, as individuals who are joined to this parish community, may we with God’s help bring light into our world. The darkness of these days can be disheartening, but only if we forget that the light of the world is Christ.

Reflect

- During these days where do I see blindness in our society?
- In what areas of your life do you experience blindness?
- How can I be light in darkness?