

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Live in the Light

Loving Father,
in love you created the world,
and in love you sent its redeemer.
Early and often you called
to our ancestors.
Early and often you call to us too.
Be merciful to us.
We were made in your image
and likeness.
You saw that we were very good.
We had all that we needed, yet you
wanted to give us more.
This gift, which we cannot merit,
is the gift of your Son's life.
Help us to live in your light.
Guide us away from the darkness,
that we, new creations, might do the
good works to which we are called.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, March 14, 2021 Called to the Light



Today's readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” This Scripture’s beauty, simplicity, and truth inspire people to answer the call of Jesus to spread the Good News.

Though we know that God made the world and everything in it and saw that it was good, we also see that the world is filled with darkness and difficulty. How can this be? Each of us can think of world events that break our hearts. We do not want to think about how our actions contribute to what breaks the hearts of others. In Chronicles, we hear that

God sent messengers early and often to call the people away from their destructive decisions. In the Gospel, we hear that the people preferred darkness to light.

A bright light can dazzle our eyes. It can reveal things that were not visible in the dark. We might prefer to sit in the dark. But because of God’s great love, Ephesians states, we have been given a gift we do not deserve. Brought to life in Christ Jesus, we might live. We must turn away from our discomfort, our feelings of exposure and vulnerability, and go forth to do the work that we have been called to through our baptism. Is there something in your life that makes you prefer the darkness? How can you take away its power by exposing it to the light?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 15 Life-Giving Word

Jesus' second sign in Galilee, the healing of the official's child, occurs from a distance. Jesus' word provides healing and life to the boy, who is near death. We even hear that the fever left him at the time Jesus spoke. Jesus' word gives new life. We hear in Isaiah the prophecy of the new heavens and the new earth. "No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there." How is this healing word of Jesus a sign of what is to come? What do you think the coming kingdom will be like? *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54.*

Tuesday, March 16 Take Up Your Mat

Once again, Jesus' word brings healing and life. After encountering the healing word of Jesus, a man who has been ill for many years is able to pick up his mat and walk, with all the possibilities this new life suggests. Jesus' word gives life. It has power. Choose a phrase that Jesus states in Scripture and copy it three times. How is Jesus' word inviting you to new life today? *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

Wednesday, March 17 St. Patrick

St. Patrick was a bishop in Ireland in the fifth century. He was responsible for the peaceful conversion of Ireland to Christianity. Kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland, he returned as a missionary to use his knowledge of Irish language and culture to evangelize. Celebrate St. Patrick, patron of Ireland, by living as a loving witness to Jesus, so that others might be brought to Christ through your love. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

Thursday, March 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was a bishop and a Doctor of the Church who lived in the fourth century. He wrote for those who were in the process of becoming Christians and also against heresies that were causing divisions within the Church. St. Cyril was a great catechist. Is there an opportunity for you to teach others about the faith? *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, March 19 St. Joseph

St. Joseph's vocation was one of the most important in history. God speaks to St. Joseph in dreams, but Joseph has no trouble distinguishing God's voice from other voices. He acts in accordance with the words he receives. And in so doing, he protects Mary and Jesus from the forces that wish to harm them. We can surmise that his awareness of God's voice might originate in a lifetime of attentiveness to God's presence and action in his life. In our time, just as in St. Joseph's, other voices vie for our attention and response. Ask St. Joseph to intercede for you, to ask God to help you to listen as he does. Then spend some time listening for God's voice in silent prayer, with Scripture, or in the voice of a trusted friend. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.*

Saturday, March 20 Who Are You, Jesus?

As Jesus taught about the kingdom of God and did many signs, people who listened were divided about his identity. If Jesus is the messiah, raised from the dead, there is a reason for our hope. The ground of all reality is a love stronger than death. Yet often hope and trust are put in other things, and decisions are based on fear rather than love. How can you reorient your life so that your choices are guided by love, not fear? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*

