

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

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

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

LECTOR: 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, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

LECTOR: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

LECTOR: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

LECTOR: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

TODAY'S READINGS 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

NEXT WEEK (5th Sunday of Lent, Yr A) Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

Want to learn more?

Daybreaks Daily Reflections for Easter and Lent takes the reader into the depths of God's mystery. In this booklet, Father Ron Rolheiser provides reflections for each day of Lent and Easter. The booklet is available from Majellan Media for \$7.50. For more information contact us at **03 9592 2777** or **office@majellan.org.au**

Congratulations to Jenny Anne from Perth who won the Majellan Media iPad mini competition. She wrote: 'A Christ-centred celebration of togetherness in our family, making amends and little acts of kindness that will have a ripple effect to the world!'

Christ lights our way



22 March 2020 4th Sunday Lent Year A

A man has been blind from birth. He lives in 'darkness'. People, including Jesus' disciples, look at him as a sinner punished by God, wondering whether he or his parents are to blame for his blindness. Yet neither he nor his parents are responsible. His destiny is marked from the beginning.

All this changes when he meets Jesus who announces: "As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world." Jesus sees the man's situation in a completely different 'light'. His focus is to rescue this poor, despised and labelled man from a life of 'darkness'.

Jesus' light penetrates the man's blindness. He then sees and discovers light for the first time and can enjoy his proper human dignity. However, it's not only his physical sight which is restored. He now sees beyond the miraculous sign to discover the deeper meaning of Jesus' life and mission.

Following the healing, there's confusion and the man's under pressure. The religious leaders feel obligated to control the purity of their religion. Only they will decide if the man is to be received into the religious community and admitted to the Temple.

But they are unable to accept what they have seen with their own eyes. They raise questions about whether the healing is authentic. Perhaps the man hadn't been

blind from birth? How can someone like Jesus who doesn't keep the Sabbath do something like this? The newly-sighted, newly 'enlightened' man stands firm. He can't explain what happened, but knows it did and that its somehow come from God; from someone who is a prophet walking among God's people.

Sadly, he's subjected to abuse and put-down by the religious leaders. What do you know about such things? How can someone like you ("a sinner through and through") teach us (the righteous) the truth of what has happened? Abuse turns to eviction and they drive him away. Not only do they refuse to see, but they also refuse to hear.

For us, this story invites a faith response. In baptism, we were given a lighted candle as a sign that we want God to enlighten our minds and hearts to what is true. This means living with spiritual sight and physical sight.

We are encouraged to develop the confidence of the newly-sighted man who knows what he has seen and is prepared to speak of it, even when it means rejection by his community and even his family. The light of Christ has come into our lives and as long as we are in the world, we are to be the light of Christ, especially where there is darkness.