

Call to Worship – Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

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Today we begin the fourth week in our journey of Lent. Our readings invite us to a deeper conversion of heart – to see with new eyes – the eyes of God’s love and compassion.

The gospel reading from John recounts the story of the healing of a man blind from birth. It ends with a confession of faith, a recognition of who Jesus is, by the one who is blind. Those who have sight allow the law to get in the way of their belief. The Pharisees can only see Jesus as a sinful man because he heals on the Sabbath. The man’s parents are fearful of the Pharisees and remain short sighted. They won’t speak on behalf of their son. Jesus, who sees into each one’s heart, offers sight and insight to those who are open to receive it.

In the first reading from the first book of Samuel, our way of seeing is again challenged. A new king is about to be anointed from among the children of Jesse. Jesse sees the oldest and the brightest from among his children as the best choice for king. In the end, it is the youngest, David, that is chosen by God and anointed king.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that we who are one with Christ are no longer in the darkness but we live in the light of goodness, virtue, and truth.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us pray with and for one another that through our Lenten practices we may cultivate a way of seeing ourselves and one another through God’s eyes – the eyes of compassion, justice and truth.