

March 15th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The fourth Sunday in Lent continues the focus on baptism as a key to the Christian life. During Lent, as we prepare candidates for baptism, we remember our own baptism, and we renew our lives to live more fully in the light of baptismal grace.

[1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)

The boy David was anointed by the prophet and then received the Spirit of God. In the early church, baptisms usually included an anointing with oil. So in baptism, we too are anointed, either metaphorically or literally, and having received the Spirit, we too reign in God's kingdom. The title "Christ" means "the anointed one," and Christians are those anointed with Jesus Christ to live a transformed life. This story parallels John 9 as a picture about baptism.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

In response to the story of the anointing of the shepherd boy David, we sing [Psalm 23](#), for God is our shepherd. In the fourth century, preachers used Psalm 23 to describe baptism: the green pastures are the time of baptismal catechesis; the still waters are the font; the soul is restored by the infusion of the Spirit; the right pathways are the moral life of the transformed believer; God's rod and staff are our guidance for Christian living; the table is the eucharist, with a cup overflowing with mercy. The house of the Lord is the community of the church, within which we enjoy God's goodness.

[Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

Interrupting our Lenten reading of Romans, the passage from Ephesians readies us to hear about the man born blind. Christ shines also on us; we too are to live no longer in darkness, but rather as lights in the world.

[John 9:1-41](#)

At least since the fourth century, the church has used the narrative of the man born blind as a picture of every believer's baptism, which in early centuries was commonly called "enlightenment." Our baptism has given us the light of Christ, by which we live, and with which we illumine the darkness in and outside ourselves. Along with the seeing man, we affirm our Lenten faith, "Lord, I believe." We too are sent by baptism to live a new life.

