

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 22, 2020
HOME WORSHIP AID

Gather: Play a spiritual song or hymn from youtube or similar app.

Leader: In the name of the Father + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Gospel: Have someone read John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
(pause for silent reflection)

Reflection:

Today's Gospel speaks about blindness in all its forms-physical, emotional, and spiritual. Jesus healed a man, blind from birth, who went to the Pharisees but they denied the miracle had happened. Many of us wear blinders as we go through our day because we fail to recognize how God works through people and circumstances. We may neglect the goodness that surrounds us because it doesn't fit within our understanding of science or reason.

Questions to discuss or reflect upon:

- How does God surprise people in the Gospel reading?
- What does Paul mean in the Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14) when he calls us to "live as children of the light"?
- How has God surprised you?

Pray:

For those living in fear during this crisis, that God will grant them hope, we pray to the Lord.
For Doctors, Nurses, Emergency and Health Care Institutions, we pray to the Lord.
For all who are sick, that they may know the healing power of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Our Father....

In the name of the Father + and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT HOME WORSHIP AID

Gather: Play a spiritual song or hymn from youtube or similar app.

Leader: In the name of the Father + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Gospel: Have someone read John 11:3-7,17, 20-27,33b-45
(pause for silent reflection)

Reflection:

In the gospel about Lazarus' death, John writes about Jesus' grief of losing his friend and seeing his loved ones grieving as well. The feelings of helplessness, anger, and sadness can be overwhelming. We're told in the passage that Jesus himself is moved by deep emotions. Again, this reminds us of Jesus' deep connection with people he knew and loved. Jesus himself expresses sadness. Still, he offers hope, new and resurrected life to us all. As Martha expresses her bold faith in Jesus, let us do the same knowing Jesus is here with us in this crisis through our feelings of helplessness, anger and sadness. Jesus loves us and grieves with us.

Questions to discuss or reflect upon:

- What are the feelings in this crisis for which we are asking Jesus' help?
- We believe that Jesus is fully human and divine. How do these aspects of Jesus' two natures emerge in our Gospel reading?
- Does Martha's confession of faith in Jesus deepen your relationship to the Lord Jesus?

Pray:

For those living in fear during this crisis, that God will grant them hope, we pray to the Lord.
For Doctors, Nurses, Emergency and Health Care Institutions, we pray to the Lord.
For all who are sick, that they may know the healing power of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Our Father....

In the name of the Father + and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

**MAY WE WHO ARE MERELY INCONVENIENCED
REMEMBER THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE AT STAKE.**

**MAY WE WHO HAVE NO RISK FACTORS
REMEMBER THOSE MOST VULNERABLE.**

**MAY WE WHO HAVE THE LUXURY OF WORKING FROM HOME
REMEMBER THOSE WHO MUST CHOOOSE BETWEEN PRESERVING
THEIR HEALTH OR MAKING THEIR RENT.**

**MAY WE WHO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN
WHEN THEIR SCHOOLS CLOSE
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO OPTIONS.**

**MAY WE WHO ARE TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT OURSELVES
REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE RISKING THEMSELVES TO PROTECT AND
SAVE OTHERS.**

**MAY WE WHO HAVE TO CANCEL OUR TRIPS
REMEMBER THOSE THAT HAVE NO PLACE TO GO.**

**MAY WE WHO ARE LOSING OUR MARGIN MONEY IN THE TUMULT OF
THE ECONCOMIC MARKET
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO MARGIN AT ALL.**

**MAY WE WHO SETTLE IN FOR A QUARANTINE AT HOME
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOME.**

**WE ASK YOU, LORD, TO BLESS THOSE WE REMEMBER IN THIS WAY
WITH YOUR UNEQUALED LOVE AND PROTECTION
DURING THIS TIME WHEN WE CANNOT PHYSICALLY WRAP OUR ARMS
AROUND EACH OTHER,
LET US YET FIND WAYS TO BE THE LOVING EMBRACE OF GOD TO OUR
NEIGHBORS. AMEN.**

**(Originally from Father Larry Tensi of St. Columban Parish in the
Archdioceses of Cincinatti)**