

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Help us to see!

INTRODUCTION

Can you imagine what it would be like to be blind? Close your eyes tightly or cover them with your hands. Think about the things you have already done this morning; getting out of bed, having breakfast, brushing your teeth, putting on your clothes and shoes. Would you have found them harder to do if you were blind and could not see? In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus helps a blind man to see with his eyes and his heart!

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

We say together:

Fill our hearts with the light of Jesus.

SORRY

If we do something wrong, our hearts are filled with darkness. As we sing "sorry" together, God's spirit will fill our hearts with his light and chase the darkness away. Together sing Sorry Song 2.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel we sing Acclamation 2.

GOSPEL (JOHN 9:1, 5, 6-11, 32-33, 35-38)

One day Jesus saw a blind man begging by the roadside. The man had never been able to see. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "I am the light of the world."

Then he bent down and made a paste with some spittle and a little mud. He put this on the man's eyes and said to him, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash your eyes." The man did this, and to his amazement, found that he could see!

The people of the town could not believe it. "Is this really the blind beggar?" they asked. "It is me!" he answered, and he explained what Jesus had done. "But who is this man?" the crowd asked. "I do not know where he came from, or who he is, but I know that he made me see. Unless this man was sent by God he could not have done such a marvelous thing."

The crowd grew angry with the man and

chased him away. Later, Jesus found him sitting alone. "Do you believe in the Son of God?" he asked. "Yes sir, I believe in him, but I do not know him," he answered. Jesus said, "You can see him, for he is speaking to you." At once, the man fell to his knees and said, "Lord, I believe in you."

DISCUSSION

What did Jesus do to make the blind man see? How do you imagine he felt when he opened his eyes after washing them?

Who did he think the man was? The blind man knew that a man called Jesus had cured him. He realized that no ordinary man had done this wonderful thing. Jesus told his disciples that he was the "light of the world." He touched this man's eyes and his heart with the light of his love, so that he could "see" that Jesus was the son of God.

How can we make sure that we are filled with God's light so that we do not become blind to God's goodness? One way is to pray every day. When we pray to God we are talking to him, and so we get to know God better. Then it is easier for God to help us to see the way we should live our lives.

ACTIVITY

Have the children imagine all the "new" things that the blind man saw for the very first time when he opened his eyes after washing them. Then, either draw the things they have imagined, or color the examples given here, and mount them around a smiling picture of the man who had been blind.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I give you my eyes
to see others the way you do,
I give you my heart
to fill with the light of your love,
Let your goodness shine out from me
so others may see
that you are the light of the world.

