

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

*You anoint my head with oil. (v5)*

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- John 9:1-41

<sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, & you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, & yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him & obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, & are you trying to teach us?" & they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, & when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, & the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." & he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, & those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this & said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Read *John 5*. How does Jesus' assertion that Moses writes about him (5:46; cf. v28) illustrate his point in v41?
2. Compare & contrast vv35-38 with the healing in *Mark 9:14-27*, esp. vv23-24. How does this inform your concept of faith/belief? What roles do knowledge (head & heart), trust, & allegiance/fidelity play? See *John 20:19-29; 1 Corinthians 3:2, 9:19-23 13:11; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. In baptisms it is common to give a lighted candle while reciting *Matthew 5:16*; what connection do you find between that practice & this gospel story? Note the irony of v24. Compare this story to the old candle lighting verses of *Matthew 25:1-13*; what connections can you find?
4. Elsewhere Jesus says, "the Sabbath was made for humankind" (*Mark 2:27*) & in the [Small Catechism](#) the 3rd Commandment teaches us to "not despise preaching & his Word, but...gladly hear it;" how does this story support such? How do you measure up? See [SC: 10 Commandments, #3](#) <[available bookofconcord.org](#)>

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Continuing this thinking, how do so-called blue laws banning commerce on Sunday measure up? How do Chick-fil-A & Hobby Lobby explain their closed on Sundays policies?
6. The church lost the proverbial vote with society for Sunday mornings & Wednesday evenings; how can you & your congregation be useful in making sure folks can worship regularly each week? See *Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25*

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Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Series: Death & Resurrection

03.19.23  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Lying Eyes

*How is God shaping and sharpening our vision?*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” (v39)

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

**Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me  
will have the light of life. (*John 8:12*)**

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