

Lent 4

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Themes of light and darkness, sight and blindness pervade the lessons for this Sunday. As humans mired in the sin that holds us captive, we fail to recognize our blindness. Christ calls us into the light of his life, love, and mercy as he beckons us to come and follow him. In that following, we come to see things in ways we have never seen them before, and the light of Christ shines through us.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 42:14–21

God Restores His People

God spoke to Israel, who could not hear or see his holy presence but stooped to worship false gods and carved idols. The Lord had held his peace long enough; now he would cry out like a mother about to deliver a child. His word would create a new reality in which darkness was turned to light and the rough places were made level.

Psalm 142

God Our Refuge

In the midst of trial, abandonment, and persecution, the psalmist had nowhere to turn — except to God. God would listen to the psalmist’s cries for help, and he would be the source of refuge for the one in anguish.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8–14

Children of Light

Paul used the images of light and darkness as an analogy for life before and after new life in Christ. The apostle exhorted the Christians in Ephesus to walk as “children of light,” discerning the will of God, doing nothing that was couched in darkness or sin.

Gospel Reading: John 9:1–41

The Blind Will See

Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth. This action led to a confrontation with the Pharisees because it occurred on a Sabbath day. The subsequent conversations brought some to faith, but they brought the Pharisees to a state of frustration. Jesus cautioned the religious leaders regarding the assumption that they saw things clearly, stating that those who were blind saw and those who had sight were living in blindness.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

Liturgical Color: Purple

During the Season of Lent:

- Use the Kyrie.
- Omit the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.

Consider focusing on what Jesus said in this Gospel lesson about sin and suffering as we often wonder why a person suffers so much. Jesus pointed out that it was not sin that caused the man to be born blind, contrary to what the people thought. Instead, his disability was used to bring glory to God through Jesus’ healing of his eyes.

How do we glorify God in the midst of our suffering?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary	93	---	423	---	---	---
Renew Me, O Eternal Light	511	---	704	---	---	---
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	535	---	940	414	13	13
Amazing Grace	448	---	744	779	199	199
Word of God, Come Down on Earth	---	716	545	510	---	---
Healer of Our Every Ill	---	738	---	612	---	---
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	---	649	411	815	---	---
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Mercy
(CCLI# 7000689)
Stronger Than Ever
(CCLI# 5310728)
In Your Light
(CCLI# 6256726)
Endless Light
(CCLI# 6177300)
I Am Free
(CCLI# 4220974)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.