

Lent 2023

Laetare Sunday

"Repairing to Recreate Life Together."

Opening Song: [Blessed be the Lord \(Dan Schutte, SJ\)](#)

In the gospel today, we imagine how the blind man opened his eyes to the light of faith, that Jesus was the son of Man.

"Do you believe in the son of man?"
(John 9:1-41)



The reading reveals the struggles we face between good and bad, power and powerlessness, poor and rich, upper class, and lower class, between teachers and the scribes, the lowly and the poor, inclusivism and racism, minority and majority, sinfulness and holiness, darkness and light, blindness and openness. These are some of the categories that we experience in the society where we live. The Pharisees who have the privilege to status and respect in the society, especially in the practice of faith, had the most difficulty in accepting Jesus, his words, and his action. The Pharisees saw a violation of a law where the blind man saw a prophet who provided him healing embrace and comfort even on Sabbath day.

We may fall in darkness but as soon as we acknowledge and want to return to the light, it is the joy of God to restore light in our blindness.

"I will give you the treasures of darkness and richness hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the God of Israel who calls you by your name."
(Isaiah 45:3)

God calls us to come out from our darkness, throw away our blindfolds, and live in the light of Jesus, who shows the way, the truth, and the life.

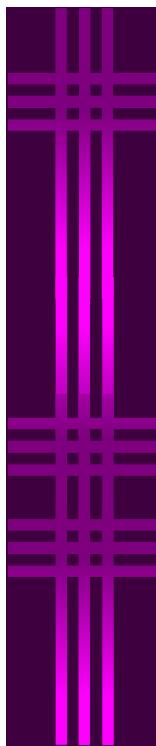
Reflection Song:
[Holy Darkness \(John Michael Talbot\)](#).



*A gift from Sr. Choi Hae Young, RSCJ
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Reflection Questions:

- **Where is light in what's happening in the world today?**
- **What is my darkness?**
- **Am I afraid of my darkness?**
- **Am I able to touch and acknowledge it?**
- **Are we also like the blind man in the gospel who receives sight from Jesus?**
- **How can we participate in Jesus' mission of healing the world?**
- **How do we bring healing from ourselves and from our community to the world?**
- **Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?**



Closing Prayer: Prayer for Listening ([LSM Prayer Book, page 12](#))

Most blessed holy Trinity, Creator, Savior and Ruah,
Through Your Word of life
All was and is created,
All was redeemed and is called to redemption,
All was united in Your bosom of love and is called to live in communion.
Because of You, dear Trinity,
All of creation is a constant exercise of listening to Your Word
So that we can embody the Word in our own lives.
Teach us, therefore, how to truly listen to
Your creating and creative Word.
Remind us that Your Word is present and can be heard in each living
being.
May we listen and learn from Your message present throughout nature.
Open our ears and our hearts and teach us strength and courage
so that we may hear the pain and suffering of our sister mother earth
and of those most affected by the socio-environmental crisis.
Amen.

Today is Laetare Sunday “Rejoice!”

As Pope Francis reminds in Laudato Si, “truly, much can be done!” (LS).

Closing Song: [Spirit Seeking \(Janet Stuart, RSCJ\)](#)

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