

FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)

Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

The Most High said to Samuel:

“How long do you intend to mourn for Saul?

I have rejected him as king over Israel.”

“Fill your horn with olive oil, and be on your way!

I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem,

for I have chosen a king for myself from among his sons.”

Samuel replied: “How can I go, Saul will kill me?”

But the Most High said: “Take a heifer with you and say,

‘I have come to sacrifice to God.

Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do.

You will anoint for me the one I point out to you.”

Samuel cleansed Jesse and his sons,

and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived

Samuel noticed Eliab and said to himself,

“Surely here before Yahweh stands his chosen king.”

But Yahweh said to Samuel:

“Do not be impressed by his appearance or his lofty stature,
because I have rejected him.

God does not see things the way people do.

People look on the outward appearance,

But God looks into the heart.”

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,

“The Most High has not chosen any one of these.”

Then Samuel asked Jesse,

“Are these all the young men you have?”

Jesse replied,

“There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said to Jesse,

“Send and get him;

for we cannot begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”

So, Jesse sent and had the young man brought in.

Now he was ruddy, a youth, with beautiful eyes, handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance.

The Most High said,

“There— Get up! Go! Anoint him, for this is the one!”

So, Samuel, took the horn full of olive oil in hand,

anointed David in the presence of his brothers;

The Spirit of God rushed upon David, from that day onward.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2)

Ephesians 5:8-14

[Beloved]:

God, who is rich in compassion,
because of the great love God had for us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —
raised us up with him,
and seated us with God in the heavens in Christ Jesus,
that in the ages to come
God might show the immeasurable riches of God's grace
in God's kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
For by grace you have been saved through trust,
and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;
it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God
has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

You were darkness at one time,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of the light,
for the fruit of the light is in each and every kind of goodness, and justice, and
truth.

Trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Each and every thing being exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything
that becomes visible is light.
Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper,
and rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine with you."

The Word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a person blind from birth.
His disciples asked him, saying,
“Rabbi, who committed the sin, in order for him to be born blind this one, or his parents?”

Jesus answered,
“Neither this one nor his parents sinned;
but it happened to him so that the works of God might be manifested in him.

We must perform the works of the one who sent me while it is day.
Night is coming when no one can work.
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Having said these things, he spat on the ground
and made mud with the saliva,
and put the mud on his eyes,
and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means Sent—.
So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

His neighbors and those who had seen him previously as a beggar, began saying,
“Is this not the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is, “but others were saying, “No, but he is like him.”
He, himself kept saying, “I am he.”
So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?”
He answered, “The person who is called Jesus, made mud and spread it on my eyes
and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’

So I went there and washed and I gained my sight.”
And they said to him, “Where is that one?” He replied, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was formerly blind to the Pharisees.
(Now the day on which Jesus made mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath.)
Then, the Pharisees also were again asking him how he regained his sight.
He said to them,
“He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.”
Then, some of the Pharisees began to say, “This person is not from God,
because he does not keep the Sabbath.”
But others said,
“How can a person who is a sinner work such miraculous signs?”

And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind one again,
“What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?” And he said,
“He is a prophet.”

Now the Judean religious leaders did not believe about him
that he had been blind and received his sight,
until at last they called the parents, of the one who had received his sight.
They asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?
Then, how does he now see?” So, his parents answered and said,
“We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.
But we do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask
him, he is of age; he will speak for himself.”

(His parents said these things because they were afraid
of the Judean religious authorities, for the Judean religious authorities had already
agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah,
he would be excommunicated from the synagogue.
For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.”)

So they called the person who was blind a second time
and said to him, “Give God the praise!
We know that this person is a sinner.”
Then he answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner.
One thing I do know, is that I was blind and now I can see.”
So they said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”
He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen.
Why do you want to hear it again? You don’t want to become his disciples, too, do
you?” They reviled him, saying
“You are that one’s disciple; we are disciples of Moses!
We know that God spoke to Moses,
but we do not know where this one comes from.”

The person answered and said to them,
“This is what is so astounding,
that you do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.
We know that God does not hear sinners,
but if one is godly and does God’s will, God hears that one.
Since the beginning of time, never has anyone heard of someone opening the eyes
of a person born blind. If this one were not from God, he could do nothing.”

They answered and said to him, “You were born completely in sin,
and yet you presume to teach us?” Then they cast him out.

When Jesus heard that they had cast him out,
he found him and said, "Do you trust in the Son of Humanity?"
He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may trust in him?"
Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and he is the one speaking with you."

[He said, "I do trust, Lord," and he revered him.
Then Jesus said], "I came into this world for resolve, so that those who do not see
might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things
and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind (tuphlos), are we?"
Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin;
but now you claim that you can see, so your guilt remains."

The Gospel of the Lord