

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 15, 2026

It could have been a shorter story if they just believed him! The man was blind. Jesus restored his sight. End of story. But no!

- It can't be the same man; it must be someone who looks like him. It's got scam written all over it.
- He was cured on the Sabbath, a violation of the Law. Jesus can't be from God, or he wouldn't have broken the law.
- He must have faked it to get sympathy from strangers or money. Let's ask his parents.
- Jesus is not on our team; he couldn't have cured him.

But the blind man knew. He was able to see past their cynicism, past their jealousy, past the boundaries of their traditions. What he came to see had less to do with eyesight and a whole lot more to do with faith.

Paul told the Christian church at Ephesus that they were different now that they believed. Faith would help them see what others could not. It was as if they were once asleep but now were fully awake, fully alive, fully aware of so much they had not seen before.

Seeing with eyes of faith is to see what others cannot see, grasping what others cannot grasp, loving with the heart that others cannot love. It's about being different, surprisingly and strikingly different, to see and grasp and love what others cannot. With that gift of faith comes great responsibility.

We have the eyes of faith to see, in bread and wine, the very presence of Christ. Should we not also be able to see the presence of Christ in our brothers and sisters, regardless of language or where they were born or even whether we like them or not? We believe that Christ can see beyond our sins and imperfections and love us completely. Through the eyes of faith, can we also see past the imperfections of others and kindle a spark of love for them beyond their sins? We believe that God's spirit of strength and wisdom comes to us when we celebrate the Sacraments. Can we also see that strength and wisdom in the most unlikely characters in our midst, just like Samuel saw in David before he was anointed and the Spirit rushed upon him?

Seeing through the eyes of faith can give us a vision untainted by cynicism, to see with wisdom that rests upon a community of faith that has lived through the best and worst of life. The eyes of faith allow us to see past our man-made divisions and deepest distrusts and hatred, and see that other's dreams and hopes really are not all that different than our own. The eyes of faith allow us to discern between laws and traditions that root us and stabilize our communities, and those that weigh us down and hold us back from becoming more Christ-like. The eyes of faith help us to see the sacred in those whose lives are made vulnerable by the selfishness of this world, to see the dignity in those who are rejected by the prejudice of this world, to see the holiness in those who are most often overlooked in this world.

To see through the eyes of faith: What a privilege we hold! What responsibility falls upon us!