

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

19 March 2023

154 Great is thy faithfulness
585 I heard the voice of Jesus say
217 Love Divine

SENTENCE

‘I am the light of the world,’ says the Lord; ‘those who follow me will have the light of life.’

COLLECT

Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

A reading from the first book of Samuel:

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling,

and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 16.1-13

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

We say the verses of Psalm 23 alternately:

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

A reading from Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus:

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Ephesians 5.8-14

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

See *John 9*

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYERS

Anglican Church: St Paul's Geelong (Nigel Pope); The Diocese of Riverina (Bp Donald Kirk, Clergy & People); Defence Force Chaplains; National Bishop's Conference

For the Parish: Give thanks for those who nurture community in our parish: Torquay Craft Group, the Op Shop, those who visit

parishioners, those who arrange parish meals; and pray that they may be inspired by Jesus. Give thanks for those who use their abilities and give of their time and resources in the community of which we are a part: in their jobs, as volunteers, in their families, as neighbours, as friends and to strangers.

For the sick & in need, and those who have ongoing need for strength, courage and peace of heart, mind and soul in their journey: Alan Y, Kathie M, Keiran & Paul, Fiona T, Sally N, John B, Deirdre B, Jenny S, Jane & Peter M, George F, Boris Z, Pauline R, Lorraine D, Ray & Marion W, Ray M, Helen & Geoff D, Jim H, Nan L, Marilyn, Mary & Ian S and those known to us in need of our prayers.

Year's Mind

23rd Robert Vines (2017)

24th Dora Duval (2007)

25th Stan Marting ((1996)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

21st Ali Alemi

23rd Chris Farrow

24th Alan Young

25th Melissa Bowkett-Hall