

4th Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2017

READINGS:

1 Samuel 16: 1B, 6-7, 10-13A; Psalm 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

As Lent goes on, we can all use inspiration to remain committed to turning away from sin and growing closer to God through prayer, denial of one or more of life's pleasures, or performing actions to serve God and/or others. These readings encourage us to persevere and continue on our Lenten journey. The reading from the First Book of Samuel reminds us that God looks into our heart, and St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians directs us to be children of light. In the Gospel Reading from St. John, Jesus comes to the blind man, and similarly he comes to us, wanting us to have faith and follow him, so that we can share in his resurrection on Easter.

REFLECTION:

In these readings, as we're encouraged to draw closer to God, we're reminded of a phrase that Mother Seton said.

"Be children of the church."

Numerous Choirs, Volume 1: The Seton Years 1774-1821, page 234

She spoke these words as she lay dying on her deathbed in early January 1821. She was requesting that those at her bedside continue to follow God and be close to him, which is similar to what the readings are inspiring us to do today.

PRAYER:

Lord, during the season of Lent, may we live as children of the light and recognize goodness, righteousness and truth within others and ourselves. Enable us to change our hearts to become children of the light and children of the church, so that those who see us will see Jesus visible in us. Help us to examine our hearts for what might be holding us back from God's light, so that we may be able to offer it up to our Heavenly Father. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

TRY THIS TODAY:

Examine your heart for what might be holding you back from God's light, and offer it to God, so that it's in his hands, not yours.

Submitted by:

Tina Heffner

Helen Jahn

Ladies of Charity, Emmitsburg, MD