

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Lent Yr A Week 4

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The stand or table is draped with Lenten purple. A platter with a "mud" mixture could be placed partially elevated so that all can see the content. The ash bowl may still be on the table.

Leader: Lord, you are my shepherd
All: You are true to your name

Leader: You anoint us with holy oil
All: Our cup is overflowing

We Listen: The Gospel. John 9: 1-11 Shorter part of the Sunday Gospel

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"We must work the works of the one who sent me." Jn 9:4

Commentary: Once more, Jesus draws us out of confusion into focus. The story of the person blind from birth has all the elements that make a good story or movie. Culture conflicts, disability, guilt, healing, gossip, blame-throwing, power struggles- it's all there. But Jesus keeps pushing his message, chipping away at all the distractions the Pharisees, the crowds, the parents, even the stunned blind man, provoke him with. We are to do the work of God and this is simply to accept the presence of God in our deepest selves, recognise our God as the healer and lover, and be compassionate and do mercy as this God is and does. All rules, judgments, customs, pre-conceptions and fears have to be subordinated to the work of the One who created us just for the task of loving.

We Respond: "We must work the works...."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- What works has God called you to do? How do I know?
- How are my natural talents aligned with the tasks God suggests for me?

Song: Open My Eyes (J Mannibusan-AOV1) or Christ in Me Arise (T Thompson-Spirit & Song-OCP)

We Go Forth: God who brings sight to the blind, disruption to the proud and hope to struggling disciples. Open our eyes so that we may recognise the work you set before us, knowing that it is nether too hard nor too wearisome. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Lord, you are my guide and my hope **All:** There is nothing I shall want