

Let There Be Light

God is light. We have all heard this preached, but the readings on this Fourth Sunday in Lent drive the point home. The question: can we look at the light?

As the First Reading says, the people of Judah “added infidelity to infidelity” by worshipping false gods, polluting the sacred temple, ignoring God—and doing it with vigor. Read the First Reading for the terrible details.

Out of compassion God sent prophets to warn them, but each of them received only scorn. “There was no remedy,” the reading says. The people were condemned by their own actions. God’s love remained constant, but theirs did not. An invading force took them as captives into Babylon, where they remained in exile for seventy years until the good and just King Cyrus conquered Babylon and let them go.

They had suffered in Babylon. For a Responsorial Psalm we have one of the most poignant of all psalms, the exquisite number 137. In it the people weep as captives in a foreign land. They refuse to sing songs of their homeland because they are exiled from everything they held dear, everything that their own infidelity had robbed from them. As far as they know, the light of life had gone out.

It was not God but they who had closed their eyes to the light. John’s Gospel tells us that a person is condemned because that person “has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” God has no desire to condemn, but people condemn themselves by walling God out. At the end of the Gospel there is a very interesting, wise saying that sums up the message of this week’s Lenten readings:

Light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

Maybe these sentences reveal the heart of sin itself. Light displays too much of our life. We become ashamed. We hide our selves. Yet we are built to seek the light. Perhaps the present writer can be pardoned for presenting a poem in this space, especially one that he himself wrote. Perhaps it will speak to you of the readings. It is a fable, set in the style of a children’s verse. I recommend that you read it out loud, and read it slowly.

Once there was a city built in the sunlight.
 Warmth and laughter abounded. Memories of day would remain every night
 until the sun could return. Fear one morning said light is too bright.
 Too much truth can be seen. How can we seem what we say we are
 if light the intruder is here? So walls went up and a ban on all windows
 and nothing of day could remain.
 The city said, you have left us, O sun. In the darkness we have gone blind.
 But the sun outside still shed its light, and its warmth and its laughter and love.
 It lightened the walls and gave warmth to their chill,
 while within, the soul bored a hole.
 Into it poured a single beam, a sunlight of laughter and care.
 Softly, silently, almost like spring, love opened and blossomed and grew.
 Listen to the light. Listen to God this Lent. Let love open and blossom and grow.

John Foley, SJ

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 14, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Sacrament of Reconciliation & Sacrament of the Sick

You may call the office to schedule an appointment for confession. If there is no answer please leave your name and phone number and Father Jim will return your call. Please do not schedule an appointment if you are sick, please wait until you are well to protect yourself and the priest. Priest and penitent will be required to wear a mask and maintain a safe six foot distance during confession.

The Sacrament of the sick is available for those who are in need, terminal and to those who have an upcoming surgery. Please call the office if you or a loved one is in need of this sacrament.

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 ♦ Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house
 ♦ of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our
 ♦ faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you
 ♦ Welcome!

The purpose of St. Stephen’s Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.

Readings March 15th through March 21st:

Mon: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54
 Tue: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
 Wed: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
 Thur: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
 Fri: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Lk 2:41-51a
 Sat: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12; Jn 7:40-53
 Sun: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Parish Collection

Last week's mail in collection \$612

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9:7

THANK YOU to all who have continued to make financial contributions to St. Stephens Indian Mission through these most trying times! God Bless!

Mass Intentions this week

3/14:	Sunday	Jim & Tuck Mills
	Sunday	For the People
3/17:	Wednesday 5pm	Jalene Hanway on her birthday
3/18:	Thursday 7:15am	Patti Hanson
3/19:	Friday 5pm	Souls in purgatory
3/20:	Saturday Blessed Sacrament	Tom Konrad
3/21:	Sunday	+John Cunningham
	Sunday	For the people

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

As we continue to celebrate Mass at St. Stephens, we are limited to 10 people in attendance as we follow the Wind River Intertribal Council's resolution. If you would like to be added to the rotating list of parishioners for Mass please call the office or email the parish office. Please also email the parish office (melissa.brown@saintstephensmission.com) to make sure your contact information is on file with the Parish as this is our primary way to contact you when things change or if we have an event you might be interested in. Thank you!

Bishop Steven's dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass Obligations has been extended through June 30th.

Mass is available for viewing on K2 Television at 9am and/or you may watch via livestream on St. Margaret's or Holy Rosary's FB pages.

Face masks are required at Mass. Please use hand sanitizer, refrain from exchanging handshakes during the Sign of Peace and maintain at least six feet apart from parishioners (except if you are in the same household) including processing to receive the Eucharist. If you are not feeling well and are scheduled to attend Mass please stay home and call the office so we can switch you with another parishioner until you feel well. Please keep our church family safe.

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Peggy Spoonhunter +Matthew Bell +Jerome Oldman, Jr.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office.

Diocesan guideline is \$10.00 for Mass.

"The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them."

– St. John of the Cross



"There is always the factor of 'gratuitousness': the ability to do some things simply because they are good in themselves, without concern for personal gain or recompense.

Gratuitousness makes it possible for us to welcome the stranger, even though this brings us no immediate tangible benefit."

— POPE FRANCIS

Fratelli Tutti, 139

It is our moral responsibility to accept the COVID-19 vaccine- for the sake of our own health and solidarity with the most vulnerable