

*Lent 4A 2014*

*And Now I See*

At the beginning of today's gospel Jesus proclaims that he is the light of the world. Then, at the end of the gospel he says that he has come into the world for judgment so that those who do not see might see.

*Jesus is the light of the world because he reveals God's love and mercy to us.* To stand in the presence of Jesus is to stand in the radiant light of God's own life. To hear the words of Jesus is to hear the life-giving Word of God. To be in Christ is to live in the light that gives us true life.

*Jesus is the light of the world because he reveals who we are.* When we stand in the light of Christ we see and understand ourselves in a new way. In the light of Christ we see our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. In the light of Christ we understand the power of sin in our lives, as well as in the life of the world. In the light of Christ we see that we are sinners in need of God's grace.

The man who was blind from birth is every one of us; for there was a time when we did not know God. There was a time we lived in the darkness of sin. There was a time we did not see the love and mercy of God. But when the light of Christ came into our lives, our eyes were opened, and we saw what we could not see before we lived in the light of Christ.

St. Paul puts it this way: once we were darkness but now we are light in the Lord. There was a time we lived in the darkness of sin, unaware of the depth of our own sinfulness. There was a time we could not see the grace and love of God. But now, St. Paul says, we belong to the light because Christ has filled us with the glorious light of his own resurrection life. And so, we are to have no part in the works of darkness but to live in the glorious light of God's own grace.

At the end of today's gospel, Jesus says he has come into the world for judgment. None of us likes to be judged, not even by God. Judgment is frightening; it seems unfair. But Jesus insists he has come into the world for judgment. He has come to expose the sin of the world, the sin of our own lives. When we stand in the glorious light of Christ we see our sins for the first time. In the glorious light of Christ everything is made visible: what is good and what is bad. God's love is revealed to us, and we are revealed to God.

Lent summons us to stand in the light of Christ. In that light we learn the grace and mercy of God. In that light we see the depth of our own sinfulness and need for God's grace. In that light we see what truly matters. In that light we experience the life of God. When we receive the Eucharist this morning, we will be filled with the light of Christ. Filled with that light, let us set aside every work of darkness and walk in the light of Christ.