

Kati - A reading from the
gospel according
to John.

Man Born Blind

A Choral Reading Based on John 9:1-41

Kati - Narrator:

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. The disciples asked him,

Mike C
Chris M
Mike B
Veronica
Don - Disciples:

Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Don - Jesus:

Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Kati - Narrator:

When he had said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to the man born blind,

Don - Jesus:

Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.

Kati - Narrator:

So the man born blind went and washed, and he came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,

Chris M - Neighbor #1:

Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?

Mike B - Neighbor #2:

It is him.

Chris M - Neighbor #3:

No, he just looks like him.

Drew - Man Born
Blind:

It is I.

Chris M
Mike B
Veronica
Mike C
Drew - Neighbors
(all three):

How were your eyes opened?

Drew - Man Born
Blind:

The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see.

Chris M
Mike B
Veronica
Mike C
Drew - Neighbors:

Where is he?

Drew - Man Born
Blind:

I don't know.

Kati - Narrator:

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

Drew - Man Born
Blind:

He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.

Chris M - Pharisee:

This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.

Mike B
Veronica
Chris M
Mike C
Drew - Neighbors
(all three):

How can a sinful man do such signs? What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?

Drew - Man Born
Blind:

He is a prophet.

Kati - Narrator:

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the man born blind.

Chris M
Mike B
Veronica
Mike C
Drew - Neighbors
(all three):

Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?

Mike B
Veronica
Drew - Parents:

We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.

over →

Kati - Narrator:

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. So a second time the Pharisees called the man who had been blind and said to him,

Pharisees:

Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner.

Man Born Blind:

If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.

Pharisees:

What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

Man Born Blind:

I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?

Pharisees:

You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from.

Man Born Blind:

This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from here, he would not be able to do anything.

Pharisees:

You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?

Kati - Narrator:

Then they threw him out. (Pause) When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him.

Don - Jesus:

Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Man Born Blind:

Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?

Don - Jesus:

You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he.

Man Born Blind:

I do believe, Lord.

Don - Jesus:

I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.

Pharisees:

Surely we are not also blind, are we?

Don - Jesus:

If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

Relight candle, then read.

But Jesus said that as long as he is in the world, then he would remain the light of the world. If we allow God into our hearts, our minds and our souls, then we can be bearers of that light. As you go to reconciliation, allow your darkness to disappear into the light and return with the light that God has entrusted to you through his son Jesus.

Youth Facilitators return to your seats now.

You are now invited to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on an individual basis.

Show where each of the priests will be. The priests will go to their stations and individual reconciliation will begin.

These are the priests who are with us today and where they will be located:

- ① Fr. Bill — recon room ④ Fr. Brian Cummings, SSE — Blessed Sacrament Chapel
⑤ Fr. Marcel Rainville, SSE ② Fr. Charles Davignon — Baptistry Chapel
③ Fr. Ben Kiely — main entrance
Dave Riley + members of the Folk Group

will provide us with music to help us pray during this time. We would ask everyone to help us in maintaining a quiet and prayerful atmosphere while this special sacrament is being shared.

After you have received the sacrament of reconciliation and have done your penance, we invite you to come and take one of the votive candles that are on the tables at either side of the cross, light it from one of the already lit candles and place it on the cross. This will symbolize the dispelling of the darkness of sin by the light of forgiveness. At the end of the service, you are invited to take a votive candle home with you as a reminder of the light of forgiveness you received tonight. When you are finished with this, we would ask you to remain quietly and meditatively in your seat.

While you are waiting to receive the sacrament, we would ask that you do not talk and use this time to think and pray about the things you need to bring to reconciliation this evening.

Music Begins!

Individual confessions begin.

When individual confessions are finished.....

Youth facilitators who are assisting with the reading come to the front of the church, take a candle and light it from one of the candles already lit. After they read their section, they would blow out their candle.

Don:
Reader 1

The man born blind asked Jesus to heal him. What healing do you need to ask of Jesus in order to be freed from the darkness of your life?

(Blow out candle - ~~stand in place~~. Wait 20 seconds before reading the next statement).

Kati:
Reader 2

The man's neighbors and even his parents were overcome by doubt and fear. What are the doubts and fears that have been keeping you blind and in darkness?

(Blow out candle - ~~stand in place~~. Wait 20 seconds before reading the next statement).

Chris:
Reader 3

The Pharisees were blind to both the works of God as well as the presence of Jesus standing before them. How have you turned a blind eye to your faith and to the presence of Christ around you ?

(Blow out candle - ~~stand in place~~. Wait 20 seconds before reading the next statement).

Veronica:
Reader 4

The Pharisees were quick to point out the sin that they saw in others yet could not recognize their own blindness. How have the judgments and accusations made by you been used to hurt and label others?

(Blow out candle - ~~stand in place~~. Wait 20 seconds before reading the next statement).

Drew:
Reader 5

The man born blind was open to God's guidance and healing touch in his life. What may be blocking you from experiencing Jesus' invitation to forgiveness?

(Blow out candle - ~~stand in place~~. Wait 20 seconds before reading the next statement).

Rose:
Reader 6

When we turn our sight, our attention away from the light of God and away from the ways God has invited us to live, we turn toward the darkness where sin and sorrow reigns. The more we walk in that direction, the darker it gets until suddenly, darkness itself prevails.

(Blow out candle - stand in place. Wait 30 seconds before reading the next statement).

Closing Prayer:
Fr Bill

God, you have restored our sight and the sight within those
around us.
Gift us with the vision and the courage to be bearers of
your light to every place you lead us.
Grant us the strength to continue to walk in your light
and to live the life that you have modeled for us.
We ask this prayer, through Christ our Light and our Lord.

All:

Amen

Before blessing:
Rose

Thanks to our guest priests!

Thanks to Dave and the folk group!

Quick reminder regarding:

Confirmation Retreat for 2nd year students next week/
no class on April 9th.

April 16th - attend 9:00 p.m. Mass at St. Michael's
College Chapel in place of class. Plan to be at SMC
by 8:45 and look for the St. Pius group. See me
if you need directions.

Please take a votive candle home with you to remind you of the
renewed light of forgiveness you received at this service.

Fr. Bill:

The Lord be with you.

All:

And also with you.

Fr. Bill:

May almighty God bless you, in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Rose:

Blest Be The Lord #390.

*Blow out candle
in small
stations*

This service was adapted from the 1999 World Youth Day Resource Manual - Forgiven in God's Embrace. Copyright 1999, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc., Washington, DC, Pages 17-21.