

Lent Week 4 – Laetare Sunday

In the Footsteps of the Suffering Servant Learning to See

Word of God

Isaiah 42:14–21

For a long time I have held My peace;
I have kept still and restrained Myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor...
I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

Psalm 142

With my voice I cry out to the Lord;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.
I pour out my complaint before Him;
I tell my trouble before Him.
When my spirit faints within me, You know my way...
Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Ephesians 5:8–14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light...
Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,
but instead expose them...
“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

John 9:1–41

As Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.
He made mud with His saliva, anointed the man’s eyes, and said,
“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.”
He went and washed and came back seeing.
The Pharisees questioned him, but the man answered simply:
“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

Jesus later found him and said,
“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
He answered, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Him.

Reflection in the Field

There are moments in the barn when a horse cannot yet see clearly—not physically blind, but uncertain, reactive, unsure of what is safe. Her head lifts, her body tightens, her movements become quick and guarded. She is not being difficult; she is responding to what she cannot yet understand.

The experienced handler does not punish that uncertainty. Instead, they slow down. They soften their posture. They offer steady presence until the horse begins to recognize what is true: she is not alone, and she is not in danger.

Sight, in that moment, is not just about the eyes.
It is about trust.

The man born blind in John 9 does not come to Jesus asking for healing. Jesus sees him first. Before the man understands anything about who Christ is, Christ acts. Mud. Water. Obedience. And then—sight.

But the deeper miracle unfolds afterward.

The man begins to see not only the world, but Christ Himself.

Where others, certain of their own vision, remain blind—he moves from uncertainty to confession:

“Lord, I believe.”

Laetare Sunday interrupts Lent with a quiet note of joy—not because the journey is over, but because light has already begun to break through the darkness.

In the barn, there is a moment when the horse lowers her head, her breathing slows, and her eyes soften. She begins to see—not just her surroundings, but the one standing with her.

In Christ, we are led the same way.

Not by force.

Not by clarity all at once.

But step by step—

from darkness into light.

Lutheran Reflection

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel...”

— Martin Luther, *Small Catechism*, Explanation of the Third Article

Reflection Prompts

Where in your life do you feel uncertain, unable to “see” clearly what God is doing?

When have you experienced Christ meeting you before you even knew how to ask?

What does it mean for you to “walk as a child of light” in a difficult season?

Where might Christ be inviting you to trust Him, even without full understanding?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,
You are the light that breaks into my darkness.
Where I cannot see, lead me.
Where I am uncertain, steady me.
Open not only my eyes,
but my heart to recognize You.
Teach me to walk in Your light,
even when the path is not yet clear.

Amen.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
(Numbers 6:24–26, ESV)*