

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a † Psalm 23 † Ephesians 5:8-14 † John 9:1-41

Reflection by: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

The Scripture for this Sunday is filled with all kinds of images: the new king who didn't fit peoples' expectations, the hope-filled promise of light overcoming darkness, Jesus making clay, smearing it on the eyes of the blind man and giving him sight. All powerful, but what speaks the most comforting message (and right now, don't we all really need to be comforted?) is the image of the Good Shepherd found in Psalm 23...*The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.* In these days of rampaging virus it's easy to feel as if we've been abandoned by all that we've put our trust in...the dependable, the reliant, the available, the normal. In the face of all that no longer seems trustworthy, the psalmist reassures us: *Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you God are at my side.* Can we believe? Dare we believe? Do we believe?

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI