



## **“A Light in the Darkness”**

Lent is a time of peace. We know it as a "penitential season" – a time of self-denial, self-sacrifice, a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Yet all throughout this season, the Church constantly reminds us of the Peace of God. We are reminded of the all-encompassing peace felt by the disciples as they witnessed Christ's Transfigured glory; we shared in the peace felt by the Samaritan woman at the well as she realized that she was in the presence of God. And this week - a man born blind is made to see and to feel the comfort and peace of the Light of the World.

To be consistently persons of faith who take seriously God's promise of peace,

we must be constantly nourished by Word and Sacrament. That's why the celebration of the Eucharist is so central and so indispensable to us. We come to the Table always conscious of our frailty, our infidelity, our selfishness and pride. We come as pilgrims and sinners. We come as those blind to the warmth and light of His goodness.

The mystery of God-With-Us is the final, fullest proof of God's desire to become close to us - to become a part of our very being. In Jesus, the Word becomes our flesh. Every facet of His human journey speaks to us of the nearness of God. He walked with His Father, not only in the Temple, but in the carpenter shop, at the family table, in the desert and on the mountain top. He recognized the image of the Father in the members of His family, in the townspeople of Nazareth, in the poor, the lepers, the crippled, the

deaf and the blind who flocked to Him. He enfolded the compassion of God in His reaching out to the tax collector, the prostitute, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, the thief on the cross.

The Season of Lent is a constant reminder that He continues to reach out to each and every one of us - not as a vengeful, demanding God but as Light, Hope, Comfort and Peace. We can be no less for one another.



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