

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

March 15, 2026

“True Sight”

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14;
John 9:1-41

Today’s Big Idea

We need a kind of sight that sees through appearances to the substantive heart of the matter. Jesus is the light that enables us to see the Real.

The Bouquet Today

OT: the Lord looks at the heart: **1 Samuel 16:7**

Psalm: Following a Shepherd: **Psalm 23:3**

NT: Wake up, and step into the light: **Ephesians 5:8,14**

Gospel: a healed blind man rebukes blind Pharisees: **John 9:25-27**

Seeking “true seeing” in a world full of shadows

Lessons from the Story of the Man Born Blind

1-Assumptions shape what we see: **John 9:1-2, 34; 1 Samuel 16:7**

Our mixed bag of assumptions are formed by culture, teachers, experience

2-Things cannot be distinguished in a dark room: **John 9:4**

You cannot objectively evaluate your own assumptions

Dark environments: lack of knowledge, lies/propaganda, relativism, self-isolation

3-Jesus identified Himself as the definitive light source: **John 9:5 (see also John 1:9, 8:12)**

By Him, through Him, with Him we see everything right: **Psalm 36:9, Ephesians 5:13-14**

4-To be able to see with His light, you have to align with Him: **John 9:6-7, Psalm 23**

Obedience (receiving the mud, going to Siloam (“sent”), washing) results in seeing

Examining Jesus is like blindingly looking into the headlights of a car (Paul on the Damascus Road!)

“Seeing” means being in the car **with** Jesus looking out where His headlights are beaming

5-You can’t quite figure out Jesus looking from the outside in: **John 9:16,24,29**

He resists our easy categorizations: sinner, teacher, prophet, activist, shepherd, judge

6-But He gives us SUFFICIENT rationale to come into His light: **John 9:30-33**

You have seen Him and it is He who is speaking to you: **John 9:37**

He speaks! The Living WORD: **John 1:1, 10:16**

He is visible in the record of His words & actions, and on-going interactions : **John 1:1, 10:16**

7-The way we come into Him is by allowing Him to come into us: **John 9:41**

Which, unlike the Pharisees, means repenting of our own self-sufficiency

Instead like the healed man, bowing down (place ourselves at His disposal): **John 9:38**

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
<p>And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."</p>	<p>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.</p>	<p>8 for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."</p>	<p>19 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern?

March 22, 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45