

## **Suggestions for Preaching about Amendment 4 on the weekend of September 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Thus says the LORD:*

*Say to those whose hearts are frightened:*

*Be strong, fear not!*

This could be an opening to remind people that God is in control and that we need not fear this or any election or ballot issue. Yes, we will want to advocate to defeat Amendment 4, but regardless of the outcome, God will provide a way for us to protect all life.

The entire first reading can be used in a similar way. A simple paraphrase would be, “God wins!” and, again, understanding a need for action, we can be confident of our hope in God’s ultimate victory.

*Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
the ears of the deaf be cleared;*

While Isaiah most likely has physical blindness and deafness in mind, the passage can serve as an analogy. Not everyone sees Amendment 4 as a moral issue and therefore may not “see” the ramifications. We can pray that we can be instruments that God uses to open the eyes of the blind that they might see this as a life issue.

The theme of healing the deaf and blind carries into the gospel reading and an analogy based on the act of healing is possible. In what ways are we called to “heal”? This approach affords an opportunity to consider how a Christian would act differently than a non-believer in advocating for our positions on Amendment 4.

*The God of Jacob keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,*

One angle here would be to suggest that God is calling us to secure justice for the unborn (“the oppressed”). How can we be God’s hands on earth?

*My brothers and sisters, show no partiality  
as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.*

This passage, and the phrase “show no partiality,” might allow a homily on what we can do to help others and love our neighbor. To “show no partiality” would mean we need to help all which includes the unborn.

*Prepared by Father Kevin Yarnell*