

FIRST READING

I shall lead them back in mercy –
both those who are blind and those who are lame.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah 31:7-9

The Lord says,
“Celebrate and rejoice for Israel, the greatest nation of all.”
Offer praises and shout,
“Rescue your people, Lord!
Save what’s left of Israel.”

I will bring my people back from that country in the north
and from everywhere else.
The blind and the lame will be there.
Expectant mothers and women who are about to give birth
will return and be part of that great crowd.

They will cry and pray as I bring them home.
They won’t stumble as I will lead them along a level road
to streams of water.

I am a father to Israel,
and they are my favorite children.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 126:1-2ab, 4-5, 6

R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

It seemed like a dream
when the Lord brought us back
to the city of Zion.
We celebrated with laughter
and joyful songs.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Our Lord, we ask you to bless

our people again,
and let us be like streams
in the southern desert.
We cried as we went out
to plant our seeds.
Now let us celebrate
as we bring in the crops.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

We cried on the way
to plant our seeds,
but we will celebrate and shout
as we bring in the crops.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

5:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

Every high priest is appointed to help others
by offering gifts and sacrifices to God because of their sins.
A high priest has weaknesses of his own,
and he feels sorry for foolish and sinful people.
That is why he must offer sacrifices for his own sins
and for the sins of others.

But no one can have the honor of being a high priest
simply by wanting to be one.
Only God can choose a priest,
and God is the one who chose Aaron.

That is how it was with Christ.
he became a high priest,
but not just because he wanted the honor of being one.
It was God who told him,
“You are my Son, because today I have become your Father!”
In another place, God says,
“You are a priest forever just like Melchizedek.”

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See 2 Timothy 1:10

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Savior Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Master, grant that I may see.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples went to Jericho.

And as they were leaving,
they were followed by a large crowd.

A blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus son of Timaeus
was sitting beside the road.

When he heard that it was Jesus from Nazareth,
he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!"

Many people told the man to stop,
but he shouted even louder,
"Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him over!"

They called out to the blind man and said,
"Don't be afraid! Come on!
He is calling for you."

The man threw off his coat as he jumped up and ran to Jesus.
Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man answered, "Master, I want to see!"

Jesus told him, "You may go.
Your eyes are healed because of your faith."

Right away the man could see,
and he went down the road with Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time — Cycle B

Prayer: Dear God, you have given us many wonderful gifts—the beauty of creation; family and friends, Help us to see all the ways you show us love. Amen.

Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-6; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

Reflection: Jesus continues to ask: “What do you want of me?” Bartimaeus is a reminder to us that each of us has a need to trust! The phrase Bartimaeus uses as his prayer is based on an ancient tradition called: The Jesus Prayer. Bartimaeus reminds us that “seeing” is more than just physical sight. Seeing is about relating to God and others with trust. In his ‘blindness’ Bartimaeus ‘sees’ an opportunity to trust in Jesus — ‘to see.’ How do we learn to trust? Just like Bartimaeus, we call out for help—to parents, siblings and teachers to guide us and help us SEE the right way, the right thing to do.

Activities: Make blindfolds. Have the children put them on one child at a time or in twos. Have a person lead them around. When we can’t SEE, we learn to trust. Sometimes, we have to trust that others know best how to keep us safe. We don’t SEE why but we must trust.

We celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day. Saints and those who have died and gone before us know how to TRUST in all that God offers. Saints and those who have gone before us SEE God face to face. Growing in holiness is really trusting God and ourselves to be all we are created to be.

Make a pair of glasses. Talk a little on how we have to ‘see’ things differently when we trust God, Jesus and each other. Ask: What you can practice seeing in a new way this week?

To Conclude the Session: Practice with the children repeating the Jesus prayer a number of times. Perhaps, it could be printed for them to take home and share with their families.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for trusting us with your Son Jesus. We try hard to learn to trust in what our parents and teachers ask of us. We want to trust more each day. Thank you for helping us to trust. AMEN.