

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR B

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Heal us, God our maker;  
do not let us be blind  
to all the good you do for us.  
We place ourselves  
in your hands,  
knowing you care for us  
and want us to be happy.  
We ask you to do this  
through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord.

**FOCUS OF THE READINGS:**

Our readings again focus on God's loving care expressed in concrete terms. In the first reading, Jeremiah tells his people of the good news of their release from exile in Babylon. It is cause for joy and praise, especially for the blind, the crippled, those who are lost; all those who are weak. They will rejoice in God's loving intervention.

Jesus gives concrete expression to this hope for the blind in the healing of Bartimaeus. The healing story reveals its theme of ultimate salvation in the words:

"Teacher, I want to see!"

"You are healed, because you believe in me."

An interesting image in both readings is the "road." Jeremiah tells us that God promised a "straight road" on which no one would stumble and fall. Mark tells us that Bartimaeus called out for pity, as he was sitting "by the side of the road." When he receives his sight, he immediately follows Jesus "on the road"—a biblical symbol for the way of salvation.

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9**

*This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

Our God says:

Shout with joy! Sing praise!  
I will bring my people back to their home.  
I will gather them from all over the world  
where they have been scattered.  
I will bring those who are blind  
and those who are crippled.  
I will comfort them  
and lead them to refreshing water.  
I will lead them on a straight road,  
so that no one will stumble and fall.  
For they are my children  
and I take care of them.

*This is the Word of God.*

**RESPONSE: Psalm 146**

RESPONSE:

I praise you, O God, for your faith - ful love.

praise you, O God, for all that you do.

VERSES: [repeat by singing or clapping rhythm] to Response

1. You	free	the	op-pressed	and	save	the	poor.
2. The	hun -	gry	are fed,	the	blind	can	see.
3. ?	Hap -	py	are all	who	hope	in	you.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

1. Your Word helps us see the truth.} Alle - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ial  
2. Your Word helps us show the truth.}

**GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52**

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

One day as Jesus and his disciples were leaving the city of Jericho, there was a blind man sitting by the side of the road begging. His name was Bartimaeus. When Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus who was walking by, he called out,

"Jesus, have pity on me! Help me!"

Some of the people who were there scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even louder,

"Jesus, have pity on me! Help me!"

Jesus stopped and said,

"Tell the man to come here."

So they said to Bartimaeus,

"Have courage! Get up!  
Jesus is calling you!"

So the man jumped up, left his coat by the road, and ran to Jesus. Jesus asked him,

"What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said,

"Teacher, I want to be able to see!"

Jesus said,

"You are healed because you believed in me."

Immediately the man was able to see. And he became a disciple and began to follow Jesus on the road.

*This is the Good News of the Lord.*

**REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:**

We have here another story from Mark filled with wonderful details. It should be read dramatically, giving great attention to both detail and dialogue.

Ask the children to recall the story.

- Where were Jesus and his disciples coming from?
- Where was the blind man?
- What is his name?
- What did he call out to Jesus?
- When Jesus heard him, what did he say?
- When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted, what did he say?
- What did Jesus say?
- What did Bartimaeus do after he "could see"?

Ask the children if there are other forms of blindness besides physical.

- What are they?
- Can we sometimes not see because we don't understand?
- Can we refuse to see something?

Perhaps you may wish to pray a litany with the children such as:

When we don't see the good in others,

*Jesus, have pity on us. Help us.*

When we don't understand,

*Jesus, have pity on us. Help us.*

When we don't see the truth,

*Jesus, have pity on us. Help us.*

What is important here is that you use examples the children gave so that they come to "see" that when we are "blind" we can turn to Jesus in faith.