

## The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 28, 2018

### Reading 1: Jeremiah 31: 7-9

Thus says the LORD:  
Shout with joy for Jacob,  
exult at the head of the nations;  
proclaim your praise and say:  
The LORD has delivered his people,  
the remnant of Israel.  
Behold, I will bring them back  
from the land of the north;  
I will gather them from the ends of the world,  
with the blind and the lame in their midst,  
the mothers and those with child;  
they shall return as an immense throng.  
They departed in tears,  
but I will console them and guide them;  
I will lead them to brooks of water,  
on a level road, so that none shall stumble.  
For I am a father to Israel,  
Ephraim is my first-born.

### Reading 2: Hebrews 5: 1-6

Brothers and sisters:  
Every high priest is taken from among men  
and made their representative before God,  
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.  
He is able to deal patiently  
with the ignorant and erring,  
for he himself is beset by weakness  
and so, for this reason,  
must make sin offerings for himself  
as well as for the people.  
No one takes this honor upon himself  
but only when called by God,  
just as Aaron was.  
In the same way,  
it was not Christ who glorified himself  
in becoming high priest,  
but rather the one who said to him:  
*You are my son;  
this day I have begotten you;*  
just as he says in another place:  
*You are a priest forever  
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

### Responsorial: Psalm 126

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

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,  
we were like men dreaming.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with rejoicing.

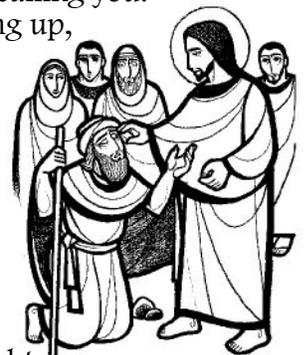
Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the torrents in the southern desert.  
Those that sow in tears  
shall reap rejoicing.

Although they go forth weeping,  
carrying the seed to be sown,  
They shall come back rejoicing,  
carrying their sheaves.

### Gospel: Mark 10: 46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho  
with his disciples and a sizable crowd,  
Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus,  
sat by the roadside begging.  
On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth,  
he began to cry out and say,  
"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."  
And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.  
But he kept calling out all the more,  
"Son of David, have pity on me."  
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."  
So they called the blind man, saying to him,  
"Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."  
He threw aside his cloak, sprang up,  
and came to Jesus.  
Jesus said to him in reply,  
"What do you want me  
to do for you?"  
The blind man replied to him,  
"Master, I want to see."  
Jesus told him,  
"Go your way;  
your faith has saved you."  
Immediately he received his sight  
and followed him on the way.



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## Open My Eyes

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see your face  
Open my eyes Lord, help me to see

Open my ears Lord, help me to hear your voice  
Open my ears Lord, help me to hear

Open my heart Lord, help me to love like you  
Open my heart Lord, help me to love

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## Psalm 126

*The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with gladness and joy.  
We are filled with gladness and joy!*

## He Is

He is a sure foundation, He is the living cornerstone  
My rock and my fortress, He is my shelter from the storm  
Hope for all people, He is defender of the poor  
The horn of salvation, He is the great and mighty Lord  
and He is risen from the dead

**I am who I am, 'cause He is who He is  
and He did what He did 'cause He loves me  
I am poor, I am blind, I am broken inside  
and He gave up His life 'cause He loves me  
He is everything**

He is a light to the nations, He is the sun of righteousness  
Bright star of the morning,  
He is the flame that conquers death  
Fountain of mercy, He is the daystream from on high  
River of glory, He is the water of new life  
and He is risen from the dead

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## “Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

- Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”
- Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with every one, but you have to have respect for everyone.
- No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.
- Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.
- Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.
- Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.
- Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.
- Be open – God is doing amazing things!

## Questions for Reflection

1. What word or phrase from the Gospel resonated with you?
2. The disciples were trying to shut him up. But Bartimaeus kept calling out to Jesus anyway. What do you do when others urge you to keep quiet? In the history of the Church can you think of great scientists and theologians who were silenced?
3. “Master, I want to see.” What is it that you want to “see” that will change your life as radically as Jesus changed that of Bartimaeus? What is the central miracle here, the blind trust or faith of Bartimaeus or the healing of physical blindness?
4. Imagine Jesus asks you, “What do you want me to do for you?” What is in your heart of hearts? What would you ask him?
5. The First Reading is a prophecy of comfort in times of distress, a promise of a better future. Who do you know that needs to hear this message right now?
6. In the Second Reading, we hear, “He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness.” How would experiencing weakness help someone in ministering to others? Do you think Jesus’ human experience and suffering draws people to him?
7. Reflect on Pope Francis’ words below. How is our society blind to the dignity of others? Our church? How can we assure that our eyes stay open to recognize injustice?

## Petitions

Our response: “Son of David, have pity on us.”

**Closing Prayer:** Have pity on us, God our Saviour. Grant us grace and courage to cast off our sins and turn to you for healing. Show us in Christ the sure path of salvation and strengthen us to follow gladly in the way of the gospel. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Words from our Holy Father

How often — and it pains me to say it — have we been blind and impervious in failing to recognize our own and others’ dignity. We should reconsider our feelings, for letting our eyes be opened to the frequent injustices which stand in direct opposition to the dream and the plan of God.

—Pope Francis, Homily, Holy Mass in the Area of the Study Centre of Ecatepec, Mexico, 2/14/16