

The Living Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

24 October 2021

First Reading Jer 31:7-9

I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob!
Hail the chief of nations!
Proclaim! Praise! Shout:
The Lord has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel!
See, I will bring them back
from the land of the North
and gather them from the far ends
of earth;
all of them: the blind and the lame,
women with child, women in labour:
a great company returning here.
They had left in tears,
I will comfort them as I lead them back;
I will guide them to streams of water,
by a smooth path where they will
not stumble.
For I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

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

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage,
It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. *(R.)*
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What
 marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. *(R.)*
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. *(R.)*
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full
of song,
carrying their sheaves. *(R.)*

Second Reading Heb 5:1-6

You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

Gospel Acclamation See 2 Tim 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away
with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mk 10:46-52

Master, grant that I may see.

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Bartimaeus sat on the side of the way, having pilgrims throw coins onto his cloak spread out before him. But the presence of Jesus encouraged him to abandon his cloak, jump up from his ground level existence and ask to truly see the way from Jesus' perspective.

Jesus responded to this act of faith by curing the disease so that Bartimaeus could see ahead in the same way as Jesus and follow him on 'the Way' (the earliest name for Christianity).

You and I can remain with the security of a familiar existence, hoping to be tossed a few coins of consolation to satisfy our various hungers. But Jesus wants us to take courage, to jump up and to share his vision.

This takes faith, but we are in a better situation than Bartimaeus. He knew only that Jesus was on the way from Jericho to Jerusalem. We believe that, in Jerusalem, Jesus was lifted well above ground level and then had the astounding victory over the worst that death could do.

We might pause for a moment to pray for the courage to abandon whatever is keeping us grounded, so that with Bishop Richard of Chichester we may see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

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