

Sunday Message

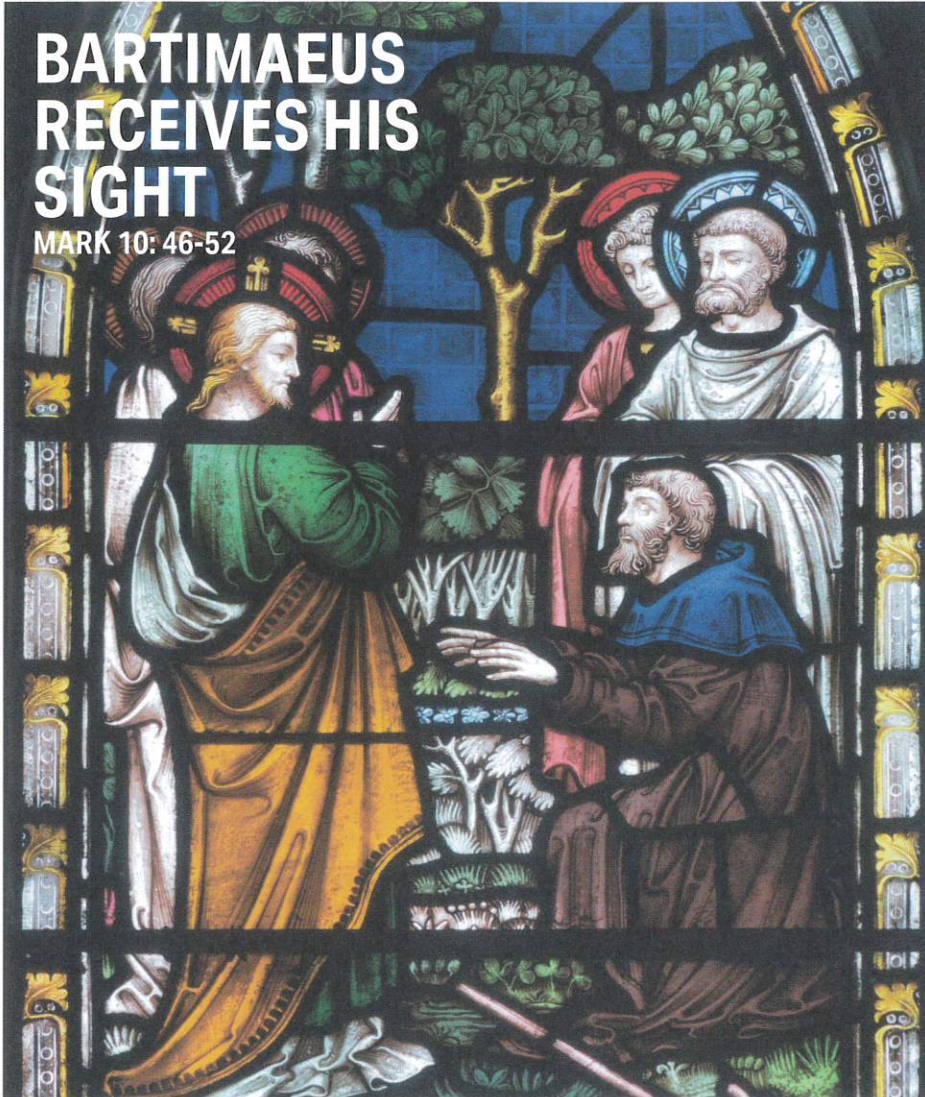
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 27 October 2024 • Psalter Week 2

BARTIMAEUS RECEIVES HIS SIGHT

MARK 10: 46-52



One of the wonderful aspects of being presented with Gospel passages from Mark every weekend, is that a lot of the scenes are very familiar to us.

Bartimaeus receiving his sight from Jesus, is an encounter that is often talked about in the classrooms of primary schools. It's a story packed with so much significance. Bartimaeus reaches out to Jesus in faith. Twice he uses the phrase, "Have mercy on me." As is often the case when a stranger from the crowd reaches out to Jesus, he is rebuked. This is a theme that appears regularly as Jesus walks through towns and villages. But why rebuke this man of faith? Why be so dismissive of a man with a disability? There is no sense to it. Jesus recognises Bartimaeus as the most important face in the crowd and tells him, "Your faith has healed you." The persistence of his calling of Jesus and not allowing those who would rebuke him to sideline him is what characterises Bartimaeus. He will go on to follow Jesus on the dusty roads, seeing at first hand the power of the Son of Man. ■

LEARN

"Only the certainty that the Crucified Christ lives on as the Risen Christ, glorified by God, gives us the solution to the riddle of Jesus as a person and makes the Church possible and real."

(Fr. Hans Kung)



REFLECT

Some commentators of today's reading invite us to reflect a little on our own spiritual blindness. We can be blinded by passion, ambition and unforgiveness. As Harold A. Buetow states, "conservatives see the blind spots of liberals, liberals of conservatives; the poor see the blind spots of the middle classes. We can be blind to a lack of caring relationships with friends and peers." Indeed the image of Bartimaeus throwing off his cloak today and following Jesus in faith and love is an image for us all to live by. He is determined not to be looked down upon anymore. He was condemned to live a life of poverty, begging on the streets of Jericho. His lot was a difficult one and despite the stigma attached to living a life as a beggar, Bartimaeus was a very persistent and determined heckler the day Jesus walked by. There was no spiritual blindness on the part of Jesus. As a matter of fact, in this encounter, the spiritual blindness of society was taken away. The cry of the poor and the cry of Bartimaeus leads us to the words of Psalm 6:3-7 – "Have mercy on me, Lord, I have no strength. I am exhausted with my groaning; every night I drench my pillow with tears; I bedew my bed with weeping. My eyes waste away with grief." As the blind mind reaches out with faith and pain in his heart, Jesus reaches out with mercy and tenderness. It is a beautiful image of how the Church must act in the world. ■

DO

Take the opportunity this week to read about the missionary life of a lay or religious person. What inspiration can you gather from their stories?

SAY

"Sweetest Jesus,
Body and Blood most Holy,
be the delight and pleasure of my soul,
my strength and salvation in all temptations,
my joy and peace in every trial,
my light and guide in every word and deed,
and my final protection in death.
Amen"

St. Thomas Aquinas
(The Aquinas Prayer Book)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

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.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 125

Response:

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed
we were glad.

- 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.)

- The heathens themselves said: 'What
marvels
the Lord worked for them!
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

- Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)

- 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

Hebrews 5:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of
life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 10:46-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
may be directed above all to your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

You say grace before meals. All right. But I say
grace before the concert and the opera, and
grace before the play and pantomime, and
grace before I open a book, and grace before
sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing,
walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip
the pen in the ink.

GK Chesterton