



First Reading: (*Jer 31:7-9*) thus says the Lord: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her who is in travail, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born.

Ps 125

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

Second Reading: (*Heb 5:1-6*) Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and

wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel: (*Mk 10:46-52*) As he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; rise, he is calling you."



Master, let me receive my sight

And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Master, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

REFLECTION

Bartimaeus, the blind beggar is the symbol of an earnest disciple of Jesus. When Jesus passed by although he was physically blind could feel the presence of Jesus and cries out. In spite of the voices from the crowd he cries out with a loud voice and it reaches the ears of Jesus. Jesus perceives the earnestness of that cry and asks him to be brought in. Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Without any hesitation he tells that he would like to receive sight. He knew well and had the confidence that Jesus is capable of healing his blindness. Jesus tells him that his faith had made him well. Even though Jesus did not ask him to follow him, he follows Jesus. Bartimaeus is healed of both his physical blindness and spiritual blindness and he is given a new light to perceive his own life. **In the light of that new light he sees the meaning of his life in following Jesus on his way.** We as Christians are probably not physically blind, but it is good to ask ourselves do we see the meaning of our life? Do we need that healing that enables us to perceive who Jesus is and follow him?