

October 28, 2018

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

## Liturgy of the Word with Children

### Today's Readings

Jeremiah 31:7–9

Psalms 126:1–2ab, 4–5, 6

Hebrews 5:1–6

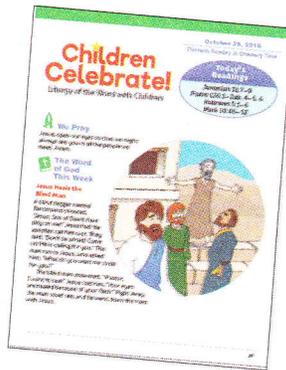
Mark 10:46–52

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

### Preparation

#### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



#### Prepare with Prayer

Those trusting in the LORD are like Mount Zion, unshakable, forever enduring. As mountains surround Jerusalem, the LORD surrounds his people both now and forever. (Psalm 125:1–2)

#### Scripture Background

In today's readings we see God coming to the aid of his people. Particular to each story is a sense of aid arriving at the last minute. Instead of responding with recriminations for God's timing, however, Jeremiah's long-held captives head home while weeping and praying for joy. And Mark's beggar, cured of his blindness just as Jesus is leaving town, gratefully follows Jesus down the road.

Real gratitude is like that. It never looks a gift horse in the mouth. It lets go of the past and plunges into the future with renewed zest. No time is wasted on useless discussion.

The people for whom Jeremiah wrote had been warned many times that their sinful ways would result in their own destruction. Worship of false gods, neglect of the poor and needy, and dangerous foreign alliances were replacing both their faith in God and their social bonds with each other. They suffered the consequences when God withdrew his protection from them and allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to conquer them in 597 bc. Seventy years of exile passed before Babylonia was in turn conquered by Persia and God inspired Persia's King Cyrus to let the Jews go home again.

### Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or fresh flowers

Have items ready for you and the children to carry in the festive entrance procession. Enlist two volunteers to help with presenting today's Gospel, and supply them with copies of their lines. They may wish to dress for their parts with robes, sandals, etc.

#### Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "God Loves Me" (Seeds CD-2, Track #15) or "God's Love Is..." (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #6)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

Perhaps the blind beggar of today's Gospel believed that his condition was a punishment for sin, too—either his own or that of his parents. It was a common belief of the day that a sickness or a handicap was a divine punishment. If so, that did not diminish his faith in the kindness of a God who could and would forgive, as well as the power of a God able to restore his sight. For his faith, Jesus told him, he was healed.

The world says that good things come to those who wait. The Bible says that good things come to those who wait *in faith*.

## Children's Connections

Today's readings are filled with joy. That is why two suggestions are offered for heightening the spirit of the day. The first is to conduct a festive entrance procession. The second is to dramatize the Gospel in a way that includes the children.

The recording of "Jesus Lives" that's recommended for the opening song begins and ends with pealing bells. Let the children add to the festivity by ringing hand bells and jingle bells, carrying balloons and streamers, etc. as they follow you to the worship space. Give each child something to carry or wave. Don't be afraid to add a dash of imagination to the procession by including items like plastic wands and bottles of soap bubbles (for the older children—to prevent dropping and spilling) or glow sticks. Walk at the head of the procession while carrying a large crucifix draped with a resurrection cloth or a framed portrait of Christ. When you reach the worship space, instruct the children to place their symbols of joy on or around the table, where you have placed the cross or image.

Before today's Gospel, tell the children that all of you together are going to act out the story as it is read aloud. They will play the part of the crowd following Jesus out of Jericho. Then introduce to them "Jesus," who will lead them on a short walk to the place in the room where "Bartimaeus" is waiting. In advance, you will have enlisted two adult or teen helpers to assist you by playing these two roles. The reading will be done with you acting as narrator and reading every part of today's Gospel except the lines spoken by Jesus

## More About ...

### *Directory for Masses with Children*

The Vatican's Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship released its *Directory for Masses With Children* on November 1, 1973. The following excerpts offer the rationale for including processions in liturgies with children.

- "In view of the nature of the liturgy as an activity of the entire person and in view of the psychology of children, participation by means of gestures and posture should be strongly encouraged in Masses with children, with due regard for age and local customs." (#33)
- "Among the actions that are considered under this heading, processions and other activities that involve physical participation deserve special mention." (#34)
- "It is appropriate to introduce other elements that will permit children to perceive visually the wonderful works of God in creation and redemption and thus support their prayer. The liturgy should never appear as something dry and merely intellectual." (#35)

and Bartimaeus, who will speak their own lines. Give your helpers a script to use, unless they prefer memorizing their lines.

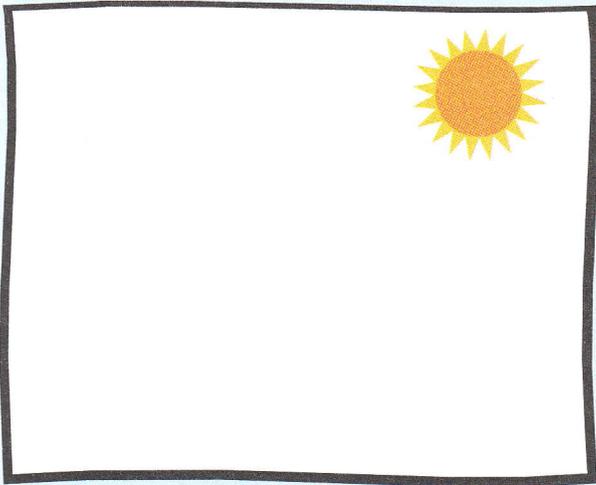
## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about Jesus healing Bartimaeus through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

This week's theme is gratitude. We should always express our gratitude toward God for the things he has done for us. The children should think about what the blind man may have seen and felt when he regained his sight.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

When the entrance procession concludes, invite the children to be seated for the opening prayer.

### Collect

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you show us the right way to go on every step of our journey through life. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you lead us to everlasting life and light. Christ, have mercy.

**Children:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, wherever people live together in love, you live among them. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

Light the candle for the First Reading.

### First Reading

**Leader:** How would you feel if someone powerful made you leave your home forever? In today's First Reading, the Lord promises to help his people return home after they have been held prisoner for many, many years.

*Read Jeremiah 31:7-9.*

**Leader:** The word of the Lord.

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

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

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

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 126:1-2ab, 4-5, 6.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, we heard about God's great love for his chosen people of Israel. In our Second Reading, the author speaks of the person who served them as their high priest. *Read Hebrews 5:1-6.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Today's Gospel is about a joyful visit Jesus once made to the town of Jericho. To make the reading special, we are all going to act it out. Someone will play the part of Jesus leaving the town of Jericho, and you will play the part of the townspeople following him out of town. Just follow Jesus when he starts walking. I will be right behind you proclaiming the reading.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Mark 10:46-52.* Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Homily

Build a homily on the following ideas and questions:

1. "In foreign nations it was said, 'The Lord has worked miracles for his people.' And so we celebrated because the Lord had indeed worked miracles for us." (Psalm 126:2-3)
2. Let's talk about the miracle Jesus worked in today's Gospel.
  - ▶ A blind beggar in a crowd kept crying out for Jesus until he was heard. You probably noticed that the beggar called Jesus "Son of David." That was another way of calling him "Messiah" or "Savior" because the people of Jesus' time knew that the Savior would come from the family of King David.
  - ▶ Do you remember what Jesus said when he heard the beggar crying out? ("Call him over!" and "What do you want me to do for you?")
  - ▶ Then he cured the man instantly. Have you ever gotten help from someone after asking for it? (Gather a few answers, possibly including your own.)
  - ▶ Just think, for every person who ever helped us when we needed it, we have God to thank. God put those people into our lives; they were God's gifts to us.
3. Now let's talk about the first miracle mentioned in today's readings.
  - ▶ God's people were prisoners in Babylonia for so long they thought they'd never see their homes again. Then one day God inspired King Cyrus to let them go. When it happened, the people knew they had God to thank.
  - ▶ Have you ever waited a long, long time for something good to happen? (Gather a few answers, possibly including your own.)
  - ▶ The story of God's people in today's First Reading shows us that sometimes we have to wait for good things to happen. When they do, we have God to thank.
4. And that's what we're celebrating today; all the favors God has given to us.

### Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith and respond to each question with, "I believe." Do you believe in God the Father, almighty and all-loving, who cares for us as his own dear children?

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who leads us on the path to everlasting life?

**Children:** I believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, who keeps us together as one holy catholic Church on the path of life?

**Children:** I believe.

### Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Now let us speak to God boldly, just as the beggar spoke to Jesus in today's Gospel, and ask for God's help wherever we know it is needed. Our response to each petition will be, "Hear us, O Lord."

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For our Holy Father, the pope, all bishops, priests and leaders of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For all the people in the world who are sick or disabled, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** For all the people in the world who are imprisoned, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. O Lord, we ask you to bless your people living everywhere throughout the world. We ask this not because anyone ever deserves or earns your favors, but because you are a great and loving God. May you be loved and praised forever and ever.

**Children:** Amen.

### Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.