

October 2021
Ordinary Time
Proper 25



The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



Welcome

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Collect & Readings	1
Memory Verse	1
<i>Bible Study:</i>	
Jeremiah 31:7-9	2-4
Hebrews 7:23-28	
Mark 10:46-52	
<i>Activities</i>	2-4
<i>Questions</i>	2-4
<i>Word Search</i>	4

Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The theme for this week is: The Joy of Restoration

Today we read of the prophecy of restoration of the exiles from Babylon, and the restoration of Bartimaeus to full participation in his community when Jesus healed him.

It can be difficult to think about joy when we are in the middle of disaster or trouble or great need. But Jeremiah, told his people to have hope, because God would rescue them from exile in Babylon, and turn their mourning back into joy and dancing. The same echoes of joy are to be found in the Psalm where the psalmist is overwhelmed, and simply cannot believe that the promise has been fulfilled.

Like people at a grand family reunion, the people of God were called from all the places where they were sent and brought back home. This was something they thought would never happen.

Today, as we too experience our personal challenges, may we hold on to the hope that Jesus, our great high priest, has won for us,. May we place our trust in Jesus that we too will receive the joy of our restoration to better times, and our greater joy to be restored as God's children, as Jesus reunites us with God for eternity.

Blessings,
The Sunday School Team



Collect & Readings

Memory Verses: Psalm 126: 6-7

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

The First Lesson (Jeremiah 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,

“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The Prophet foretells
God’s rescue of the
exiles from Babylon.
The people would
return from all the
places where they were
taken. They would be
restored as God’s
people, and God would
care for them.

QUESTIONS:

The threat of exile and the promise of restoration were all given before the events occurred. Do you think the people believed Jeremiah?

Have you ever had a family reunion where relatives gather from all over the world? Describe how it feels. How do you think the exiles felt when they returned to Jerusalem?

BIBLE STUDY:

In the previous chapters of Jeremiah, the prophet spoke God’s word of judgment. God declared that the people would be punished for turning away from God and their unjust treatment of each other by exile in Babylon.

However, in today’s lesson, he prophesied about the hope that was in store for them as God promised to restore them.

It was God’s promise that the people of Israel would be rescued from exile. All the outcasts would return home and joy would fill them once more.

ACTIVITY:

Write a song that tells the joy that the people of Israel felt when God released them from exile in Babylon and they returned home.

Listen to Hymn: Hills of the North Rejoice (CPWI 319) which tells the story of the return

[Hills of the North, Rejoice](#)
(Tune: Little Cornard - 5vv)
[\[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)
- YouTube



Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, * "The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

This psalm of praise celebrates the return of the exiles from Babylon. Praise is given to God who made the impossible a reality even as the people looked forward to the ultimate restoration that God would effect in their lives through the Messiah.

The Second Lesson (Hebrews 7:23-28)

Jesus is presented as the ultimate high priest who far surpasses the Jewish priests.

The priesthood of Jesus is eternal, he is without sin and offers a single sacrifice of himself to restore humanity to God.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

BIBLE STUDY: Hebrews 7:23-28

In Judaism, the priest was an intercessor between God and the people. The priest offered sacrifices for their own sin and that of the people. However, priests did not serve or live forever, and had to be replaced when they were unable to serve or died. Additionally, they had to repeatedly make sacrifices for their sins and that of the people, because they all continued to sin on a daily basis.

There is however one priest who neither sins nor dies. Jesus did not need to make sacrifices for his sins, because he had none. Additionally, he made one sacrifice which was sufficient for all the sins of the world. He offered himself as the sacrifice for humanity. Jesus has become our intercessor, connecting us through faith to God, the Father.



QUESTIONS:

Why did the former priests have to offer sacrifices every day?

Why is Jesus much better than the former priests?

ACTIVITY:

Jesus acts as our intercessor, taking all the things that we want to share with God, on our behalf.

Write a letter to Jesus and tell him all that you want to say to God, or to ask God. Remember to say thank you for those things that you have received.

Gospel St. Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

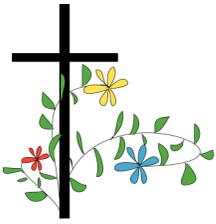
Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Today Jesus heard Bartimaeus the blind beggar calling for mercy in Jericho.

Jesus gave him his request and restored his sight, which was a great miracle at the time.

Bartimaeus was restored to his community and he chose to follow Christ.

St. Mark 10:46-52 Cont.



BIBLE STUDY: St. Mark 10:46-52

Today Jesus encountered Bartimaeus as he passed through Jericho. Bartimaeus was blind and begging on the roadside. In those days no one recovered from blindness. There were no doctors who could repair eyesight. Additionally, a disability such as blindness meant that Bartimaeus was considered an outcast of the religious community and forced to live on the margins and beg to survive. He really needed help. He heard that Jesus was passing through and called out for Jesus to have mercy on him.

Bartimaeus was crying out loudly, and those around him tried to silence him, but he was determined, and cried even louder for Jesus' help. Jesus heard and stopped. He called Bartimaeus and asked him what he wanted him to do for him. Bartimaeus asked for what he needed the most, his sight. Jesus told him his faith had made him well. Immediately Bartimaeus was able to see.

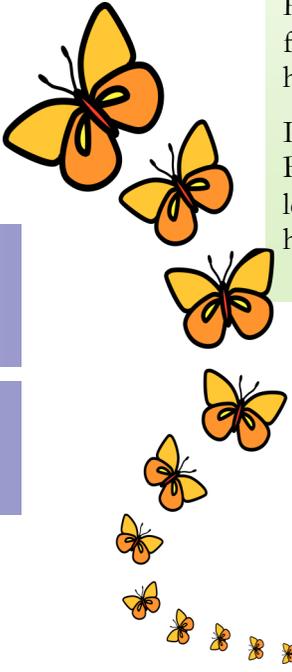
Blind Bartimaeus did not have physical sight, but he had faith in Jesus, he had insight. When Jesus restored Bartimaeus' sight, he also restored him to the community. Bartimaeus chose to follow Jesus.

QUESTIONS

Have you ever received something that you thought you would never get? How did you feel? Joy, surprise?

How do think Bartimaeus felt when Jesus restored his sight?

Imagine you are Bartimaeus. Compose a letter of thanks to Jesus for healing you.



Activity: Colouring Pages

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Bartimaeus-Can-See-Colouring-Pages-Proper-25.pdf>

Activity: Word Search
St. Mark 10: 46-52

O	H	C	I	R	E	J	O	H	N	Z	F	B	B
V	Z	E	X	C	B	A	S	O	L	C	D	A	L
B	B	E	A	T	Y	J	S	L	R	X	A	R	I
V	E	V	O	L	B	C	Z	O	N	E	V	T	N
H	F	J	A	V	E	N	W	W	T	J	G	I	D
H	G	O	L	C	B	D	V	D	X	C	G	M	E
B	J	O	H	T	H	W	T	S	E	U	J	Z	R
Y	T	N	I	L	B	R	J	U	D	I	V	A	D
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H	E	A	C	R	S	D	A	A	G	B	E	G	A
J	E	S	U	U	D	D	G	M	I	N	G	F	D
H	H	F	S	V	E	J	A	I	G	G	G	A	F
V	B	V	B	G	W	E	Y	T	Q	T	I	I	T
C	L	O	A	K	O	R	T	R	C	V	N	T	G
H	E	A	R	I	L	I	I	A	W	R	G	B	S
D	G	G	N	I	L	B	C	B	H	D	G	L	U
N	G	H	J	K	O	B	T	A	D	A	V	I	E
Y	C	R	E	M	F	I	G	W	E	X	C	V	A

Jericho Followed Jesus Healed Blind Rabbi City
 Begging Bartimaeus Mercy David Cloak Faith Crowd

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.
 Please feel free to share it with others.
 We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

Please send comments to:
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