



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 27th October 2024

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

HYMN

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save us.

*You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
From the earth to the cross,
My debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.*

Rick Founds (1954)

PRAYER

Loving God we are ever thankful for your constant presence in our lives
No matter where we are you are there surrounding us and supporting us.
As we worship today, let our prayers be to you as sweet incense rising to your throne.
Let our hymns be as a perfect harmony offered freely to you.
Let our hearts and minds be vessels open to be filled by your Holy Spirit.

We come before you today just as we are,
Recognising our strengths and our weaknesses.
We are sorry for the times when we have not lived by the standards you set for us,
We ask your forgiveness for words, thoughts and actions that have not been kind.

[PAUSE FOR SILENT REFLECTION]

God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all wrongdoing
Be merciful to us as we claim your promised forgiveness
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING Mark 10:46-52

They 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.

Hymn

1] Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2] 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone,
I've been set free,
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.*

3] The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

4] The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

John Newton (1725-1807)

John P. Rees (1828-1900)

Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921)

Additional chorus by Chris Tomlin (b. 1972) & Louie Giglio (b. 1958)

Reflection

It is always interesting when we look at the Gospel stories, many are just told in one Gospel, but the healing of blind Bartimaeus appears in Mathew, Luke and here in Mark. I always think that this signifies something special. Only here in Mark do we have the blind man's name...Bartimaeus, quite literally meaning son of Timaeus in Aramaic. Mark nicely embellishes the story told in the other Gospels, I love the little touches that the author of Mark throws in, it creates such an evocative scene that somehow we can step into and experience for ourselves.

We see Jesus and the disciples and a large crowd leaving the city of Jericho passing along a road. The noise would have been quite loud, large crowds are difficult to keep quiet. Mark paints a brilliant picture for us, a blind beggar who must have asked someone what all the noise was about and someone said it was Jesus of Nazareth, a man he clearly had heard about as a healer. So he begins to shout, trying to make himself heard above the large crowd, desperately trying to get Jesus' attention. Having the faith to believe that this teacher, this miracle worker could change his life forever. People around him, tried to shout him down, but here was his chance, his opportunity, maybe his only chance, so he would not be silenced, Bartimaeus shouted even louder...so loud that he was heard above the crowd because Jesus stopped and stood still and asked the people to call him over. The people changed their tune, if Jesus wanted to talk to him, well, we better get him to come on over, they liked seeing miracles, maybe there was another one in the offing. "Take heart...he is calling you". Mark does not stint on the description here, Bartimaeus immediately threw off his cloak and sprang to life landing in front of Jesus. Jesus's question was simple and obvious...so what do you want? Well, no prizes for guessing the answer... "let me see again". There was no fuss, no bother, just the simple power of God working through Jesus... "Go, your faith has made you well", sight restored and Bartimaeus became an instant follower of Jesus, following him on 'the way'.

It is a beautiful story of love, faith and miracle working. It preceded Jesus's entry into Jerusalem in Mark's gospel. A person literally moving from blindness to sight, darkness to light and following Jesus as the king, our saviour, the messiah. It was all a matter of faith.

Previous to this passage Mark shows Jesus remonstrating with James and John who tried to persuade Jesus that they deserved an important place in heaven, we also hear about the rich young ruler who seemingly "knows all the right stuff" but falls short because he cannot see the real truth, none of those showed true faith. Therefore we have a blind beggar by the side of the road who is saved through his faith in knowing that it is only Jesus who can restore his sight...perhaps we could say "blind faith", faith that simply says, it's Jesus, that's all I need, my life will be changed and I'll follow him for the rest of my life.

I'm sure it is no accident that this story is told three times in different ways in three of the Gospels. A lesson for us all today to put our faith in Christ alone. AMEN

Prayers

Think of those who are perhaps sidelined, that need to shout loud just to be heard;
People who are rarely valued, often forgotten or told to "be quiet";
Let us pray for them to receive the value and worth they deserve as human beings,
all equal in God's sight.

Silence

Let us think of those that are lonely, grieving, suffering through illness;
May they know the presence, comfort and love of Jesus who desires to heal the sick.

Silence

Think of those living with the ravages of war, in Gaza, Beirut, Israel, Ukraine, Russia and so many other places in our world today that are torn apart by the destruction of powerful weapons of warfare. Of the emergency services that are working against all odds to save lives minute by minute.

Silence

Let us think of all those close to us and the situations we are aware of that need laying before God's heavenly throne.

Silence

We bring our prayers in the name of Jesus
In whom God showed his love for the whole world. AMEN

HYMN

1] Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

2] Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

3] Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

4] Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Blessing

Go with God and search for his wonders throughout the world
Go with God and look for his glory in the seen and the unseen places
Go with God to proclaim his greatness in thought, word and deed.
Go with God as your Lord and your friend. Amen