



## SEASON OF LENT—WEEK 3 7 March, 2021

Only those who come to see the world as God sees the world, only those who see through the eyes of God, ever really see the glory of the world, ever really approach the peaceable kingdom, ever find peace in themselves.

—Joan Chittister

### Opening Sentences

verses from Psalm 19

The heavens declare your glory, O God,  
and the skies display your handiwork.

Day after day they tell their story,  
and night after night  
they reveal their understanding.

Without speech, without words,  
without even an audible voice,  
their cry echoes through all the world,  
and their message reaches  
the ends of the earth.

### Opening Prayer

Maker and Keeper of us all:  
as it is with your creation,  
may it be so with me.

May my *very being*  
be a source of praise to you.  
Illumine me with your Spirit  
that I might perceive  
the voiceless speech,  
the unheard word.

Enlivened by your unseen Spirit,  
may I be awake to your love  
reaching out,  
gathering in,  
lifting me into life.  
Amen.

## **ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING WORD**

### **Gospel Reading—Mark 10:32–52**

Jesus and the disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed for those who followed were afraid.

Jesus took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying: 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.'

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'

But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.'

Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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.

## **Getting in Touch with Deep Desire**

Imagine Jesus saying to you, “What do you want me to do for you?” Name your deep desire at this time... hold it before you without fear or judgement...

What, if any, response arises? It might be a word or phrase echoing in your heart, a sensation, a gut feeling, an image that comes to mind... Gently continue the conversation with the Spirit.

When you sense the conversation is reaching the end, spend some moments giving thanks for what has been revealed.

## **Opening the Eyes of Faith**

Sight in the Gospel is a symbol and blindness is a malaise of the heart and soul. Those with eyes to see are able to recognise and follow the way of Jesus. Bartimaeus is an exemplar disciple. He wishes to see and, with his sight restored, is faithful to The Way despite the challenges or cost.

Take the place of Bartimaeus in the story. Your faith has grown dim and you long to have your love and courage renewed. See yourself reaching out. What is your prayer?

Hear the assuring words, “Take heart, get up, Jesus is calling you.” What do you throw off and leave behind in order to move towards the Source of faith and love?

Hear Jesus say to you, “Your faith has made you well.” Notice what is stirred in you.

## ***RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES***

### **Prayers of the People**

O Holy One, help us break down the powerful forces that quieten, suppress and destroy. Help us to speak loudly against all that binds us to poverty—inequality, racism, emotional, physical and sexual violence, greed and warring nations.

Help us to take heart, that while we are drawn into understanding that we are complicit, your mercy shows us how to be merciful.

Call on us to rise up and stand as a steadfast presence in our community. Beckon us to see only your ways. Summon us to be your instrument of change.

And finally, we offer our prayers of the heart for the world and those we love...

## Disciples' Prayer

Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker.  
Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo  
through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by all peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Blessing

In the opening and beauty of each day  
may we hear the call of the Beloved saying: "Come."  
May our eyes be opened to possibilities for love and kindness  
and, filled again with Word and Sacrament,  
let us continue on The Way.