

In this New Testament lesson the author demonstrates how Jesus is our perfect and everlasting high priest. He was appointed not by human beings according to the law, but by an oath of God. He had no need to offer sacrifices for his own sins, for he is holy and undefiled. Nor does he offer sacrifices repeatedly, but once for all he presented the perfect sacrifice of himself. His priesthood is forever and, as the Son, he now makes eternal intercession for us. Hear now these words from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Such a high priest truly meets our need - one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark 10:46-52

Our gospel is the story of the new vision of blind Bartimaeus. The evangelist has carefully prepared for this story by illustrating the inability of the religious officials to perceive who Jesus is and by describing the shortsightedness of the disciples. Now, with nothing but his great hope, this blind beggar calls out to Jesus. He uses the only title of honor he can think of: Son of David – dangerous words in the present political climate. But Jesus stops on his own profound journey, and Bartimaeus is healed through his faith. Then, as a model of a disciple who has received healing as a gift, he follows Jesus on the way. Hear now these words from the gospel of Mark.

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

This is the word of the Lord. **May the reading and the hearing of your word inform our minds, comfort our souls and guide our feet.**