

# To Be Made Well

*Blind Bartimaeus*

*Mark 10:46-52; Matt 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43*

Compiled/written by Rev. Rebecca Trefz

## Call to Worship

L: Jesus is in our midst. Jesus, our healer, deliverer, and friend, is here.

**P: We have heard so many good things about him, but we long to meet him, to encounter him ourselves.**

L: Call out to him, and do not be silent. Like Bartimaeus, shout to him and do not allow anyone to silence your voice. Cry out and tell Jesus what you need!

**P: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us! We need a touch from you! Touch me; touch us in our need, which we lift right now in our hearts!**

L: In this time of worship, celebrate God's goodness! In this time celebration of worship, know that Jesus touched your place of need. Hallelujah! Amen!

*Adapted from Lillian C. Smith, The Africana Worship Book, Year B (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2007)*

L: Come, take refuge in the Lord, for God is good.

**P: From the storms and struggles of life we come.**

L: Come, rejoice in the Lord, for God will provide peace for you.

**P: From fear and anxiety, we come to find peace.**

L: Come, open your hearts to the Lord and you will be given blessing.

**P: Thanks be to God for the many ways in which we are blessed. AMEN.**

*From ministymatters.com 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

L: In the midst of darkness, there is light.

**P: In the midst of blindness, we will be given sight.**

L: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, brings healing love to us.

**P: Let the light of Jesus' love, breakthrough our blindness and fill our world with glory.**

*Adapted from ministymatters.com 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

L: Come, all who long to be seen and heard.

**P: We come, crying out for mercy and hope.**

L: A voice rises from the roadside, refusing to be silenced.

**P: We come with prayers too deep to ignore.**

L: Jesus stops, listens, and asks, "What do you want me to do for you?"

**P: We come, trusting Christ's compassion.**

L: "Go," says Jesus. "Your faith has made you well."

**P: We come to worship the One who opens our eyes and leads us in the way.**

*Written by Rev. Jeff Lathrop*

## **Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we come to this time of worship carrying many things on our hearts and minds – worries, fears, wounds, and scars. We cry out for your mercy and healing. Meet us in this time and place. Draw us close to your healing and redeeming love that we might leave this place freed to love you and our neighbor more fully. Amen

*Written by Rev. Rebecca Trefz*

Holy and merciful God, you have told us to come to you when we are weary and heavy laden. You have told us that persistent prayers are powerful. We bow before you, asking for your Spirit to meet us where we are. Fill us with the fullness of your love so we can pour it forth onto a world in need. It is in the mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

*Written by Rev. Rebecca Trefz*

Loving God, we confess that there are times we sit by the roadside of life feeling overlooked, discouraged, afraid to hope. We admit that we sometimes silence our own cries or ignore the voices of those who call out in need. Yet you stop for us. You listen with mercy, love, and care. Open our eyes to see your grace at work within us and around us. Give us courage to speak our deepest prayers and faith to follow when healing comes. Send us out praising God, walking in the way of Jesus, and bearing witness to your transforming love. Amen.

*Written by Rev. Jeff Lathrop*

## **Children's Message Idea**

**ASK** Have you ever had someone tell you to be quiet before? Maybe just once or twice? And did you listen? (*Sometimes...*)

**TELL** In today's scripture story, we hear about a man named Bartimaeus who was blind. When he heard that Jesus was near him, he shouted, "Jesus have mercy on me!" But then guess what the people around him said. That's right - they said, "Be quiet, Bartimaeus!" They probably said this because Jesus was an important person and they thought Jesus wouldn't want to talk to Bartimaeus, who was *not* an important person. But Bartimaeus didn't listen to them. Which is why he yelled again, only louder, "JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON ME!" Jesus heard him and said, "Call Bartimaeus here." When Bartimaeus made it to Jesus, Jesus then healed Bartimaeus so that he could see again.

**SHARE the Good News** Because Bartimaeus called out to Jesus, Jesus then heard Bartimaeus and spoke with him. It was a good thing that Bartimaeus did not listen to the people who told him to be quiet! Now, this story doesn't mean that you don't *ever* have to be quiet again. Because you **do** have to be quiet sometimes. We **all** do. We are made to have and enjoy moments of quiet. But today's story reminds us that when we need help, we should make our need of help known, just like Bartimaeus did. We should call out for help to our friends, our family, to Jesus, and to God. When we do, there will be voices that tell us to be quiet because others are too busy or too important to help us – that *God* is too busy and too important to help us. Don't listen to those voices. Instead, do like

Bartimaeus did and keep calling out for help. Because, when we do keep calling out for help, we will eventually see, just like Bartimaeus did, that we are important enough to be helped. We will also see how we are important to God and how God wants to help us – just like Bartimaeus saw.

## **PRAY**

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us voices to use when we need to ask for help.

Give us wisdom to know when to use our voices and to know which voices to listen to.

Thank you for hearing us when you call out to you.

Help us to share your love with all we meet.

We love you God! Amen

*Adapted from Rfour.org*

## **Offertory Prayers**

Merciful God, you open our eyes to your truth, and we bring our gifts to you with gratitude. As we reflect on the story of Bartimaeus, we bring our offerings as a response to your call, a step in faith to follow you more closely. Use these gifts to spread your love and light, helping others to see your grace and mercy. Bless our giving and open our hearts to see the needs around us so that we may serve with compassion and humility. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*From <http://firstumctorrance.org/> online worship Oct. 27. 2024.*

Lord Jesus, healer of Bartimaeus' blindness, help us see you in this world active in love, and help us see you by our side, so we may walk your way without stumbling. May the gifts we offer be blessed and multiplied to bring light and life into this world. It is in your beautiful name we pray, Amen.

*Adapted from Paul Sauer. Posted on the Lutheran Forum website. [www.lutheranforum.org](http://www.lutheranforum.org)*

## **Benedictions**

Now as we go forth from this place may we do so with hearts that are humbled and open to encounter Christ. May we hear the voice of Jesus through voices that have been ignored and through the needs of the world around us. And may we throw off our "cloaks" and follow Jesus faithfully.

*Written by Rev. Rebecca Trefz*

Beloved, go now in the blessing of Christ's mercy. May God grant you persistence to cry out for help, an open heart to notice the cries of others, and the courage to listen and lend a loving hand to neighbors known and unknown. Amen.

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2024.*

## **Suggested Hymns**

UMH #451 Be Thou My Vision

UMH #452 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

UMH #454 Open My Eyes That I May See

UMH #341 Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

UMH #670 Go Forth for God

## **Suggested Contemporary Songs**

*See a Victory* — Elevation Worship

*Open the Eyes of My Heart* — Paul Balloche / Michael W. Smith

*Yes I Will* — Vertical Worship

*Nothing Else* — Cody Carnes

*Reckless Love* — Cory Asbury