

REFLECTION FOR THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday's readings exhort us to be people animated by the hope that comes from faith in Jesus Christ, who is our light, our way, our truth, and our life. He came to us; he walked on our roads, met the blind and the disabled, sowing words of peace and hope in everyone. Today he continues to be a fundamental reference point in our lives, since we too often find ourselves tired, discouraged, oppressed, and without light on our path. Let us not be afraid to approach Christ, as the blind man in the Gospel did. Let us go and meet Christ, asking him to have mercy on us, to open our eyes to His light, not listening to the voices that tell us to be quiet. Let us listen instead to those who say to us: “[have] *Courage*, [for] *He is calling you.*” Thus, we must have courage to get up also, as Christ is with us, and He wants to cure your blindness, illuminate your paths, give you his life and peace.

In the Old Testament, the prophets also appear to us as messengers of hope. In the most difficult situations of the People of God, when it seemed that there was no longer any reason to believe in the future, the prophet sent by the Lord brings a message of hope to his people that is always appreciated. This is what happens in the first reading. The prophet Jeremiah exhorts the people not to lose hope in their deliverance from Babylonian captivity. The Lord will bring the children of Israel back from their captivity. The prophet says: “*They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will lead them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.*”

We too live today trapped in our fears, in our disappointments, often feeling like foreigners even among our friends -- but God is with us. Let us not be afraid, let us open our hearts to Christ and live our lives with courage and joy, always seeking God's ways, the ways of peace and justice, of forgiveness and mercy, of kindness and love.

The second reading, taken from the Letter to the Hebrews, tells us that Christ is our high priest. He is an eternal priest, chosen and sent by the Father to intercede for us and offer himself as a victim of atonement for our sins. Let us put our trust in him. Let us entrust our afflictions, dreams, and pains to him. He is our hope. He is our peace. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes to us in the Bull of Indiction proclaiming the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 that: “... *Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross*”. and after quoting

Romans 5:10, where St. Paul says: *“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, then much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”*, so the Holy Father continues: *“That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God’s grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.”* [ref. paragraph 3a].

Let us never lose hope in our lives, because we have Jesus Christ with us, and who continues to say to us: *“Do not be afraid, ... I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* [Mathew 28:10,20]

Amen.