

Old Testament Reading:
Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷Thus says the LORD:

"Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of
the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
'O LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

⁸Behold, I will bring them from the
north country
and gather them from the farthest
parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
the pregnant woman and she who is
in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return
here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with pleas for mercy I will lead
them back,

I will make them walk by brooks
of water,
in a straight path in which they shall
not stumble,

for I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn."

Epistle: Hebrews 7:23-28

²³The former priests were many in
number, because they were prevented
by death from continuing in office,
²⁴but he holds his priesthood perman-
ently, because he continues forever.
²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the
uttermost those who draw near to God
through him, since he always lives to
make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we
should have such a high priest, holy,
innocent, unstained, separated from
sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
²⁷He has no need, like those high priests,
to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own
sins and then for those of the people,
since he did this once for all when
he offered up himself. ²⁸For the law
appoints men in their weakness as high
priests, but the word of the oath, which
came later than the law, appoints a Son
who has been made perfect forever.

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶They came to Jericho. And as [Jesus]
was leaving Jericho with his disciples
and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind
beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by
the roadside. ⁴⁷And when he heard that
it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry
out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have
mercy on me!" ⁴⁸And many rebuked him,
telling him to be silent. But he cried out
all the more, "Son of David, have mercy
on me!" ⁴⁹And Jesus stopped and said,
"Call him." And they called the blind
man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up;
he is calling you." ⁵⁰And throwing off his
cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.
⁵¹And Jesus said to him, "What do you
want me to do for you?" And the blind
man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover
my sight." ⁵²And Jesus said to him, "Go
your way; your faith has made you well."
And immediately he recovered his sight
and followed him on the way.

*Jesus, Son of David,
have mercy on me!*



About the Cover: Empty hands and pleas for mercy are all that Bartimaeus can offer to Jesus as he cries, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those empty hands and pleas for mercy reveal a dependent faith on Jesus, who has not only the authority but also the desire to heal. Our open and empty hands before the Lord are met with His abundant grace and mercy toward us. He does not turn from our pleas for mercy but calls and grants us the eternal healing of forgiveness, life, and salvation.