



# Hosanna



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Year A

## INTRODUCTION

Who is blind? Is it the man who was born blind and healed by Christ and then accepted Christ as his master? Or the Pharisees and Sadducees who saw Christ and all His deeds yet refused to believe in Him as the Messiah? Today, are we not blind, if we fail to accept Christ? Are we not modern Pharisees when we jubilate over the sufferings of others?

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. (*Isa 66:10-11*)

## COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten towards the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*God judges us not by our physical appearance but by our heart's disposition. He chose David to be His chosen king rejecting his brothers who were good in stature. Today,*

*we are chosen by God not for our physical strength but by our hearts disposition.*

## A reading from the First Book of Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that

day forward.

### **Responsorial Psalm 23**

**Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

**R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

**R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

**R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, in the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

### **SECOND READING**

*God is our light. In Him we find light. God dispels the darkness. Those, who love God, stay away from darkness.*

### **A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14**

Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right

and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."

### **ACCLAMATION (Jn 8:12)**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

### **GOSPEL READING**

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John (shorter form) 9:1-41**

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?"

There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshipped him. Jesus said, "For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

## HOMILY NICENE CREED

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** Dear friends, let our hearts cry to the lord for His benevolent mercies. He has mercy on us and hear the desires of our hearts. He grants them in accordance with His will and plan for us.

1. Lord, Inspire all the leaders of the Church, our Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops and priests, that they may be strengthened by your grace to work for the salvation of all the souls. Let us pray.
2. Lord bless all of us that our spiritual blindness may be cleansed by you and see your presence in all those whom we meet. Let us pray.

3. Lord May your spirit of wisdom be showered upon all the students appearing for the public exam that may finish all the exams successfully. Let us pray.

4. Lord have mercy on us that we may never be deprived of seeing you always as our solace and comfort. Let us pray.

**Celebrant:** Lord, may all the prayers and petitions of our hearts win favor in your sight. Help us to experience your divine presence in all walks of our life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

### PREFACE IV (Lent)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

By the mystery of the Incarnation, he has led the human race that walked in darkness into the radiance of the faith and has brought those born in slavery to ancient sin through the waters of regeneration to make them your adopted children.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth sing a new song in adoration, and we, with all the host of Angels, cry out, and without end acclaim:

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes; I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.  
(*Jn 9:11, 38*)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

## REFLECTION

Today's gospel is the demonstration of how a man receives sight and insight by the mercy of the Lord? Jesus is the light of life. We are familiar with "Jesus is the light of the world". This verse remains an abstract verse until we personally experience the light of the world and cherish it as the light of life. St. John begins his gospel, "in the beginning there was Word...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". The Word takes flesh in our hearts only when we receive the Word. In the same way, the light becomes light of life only when we receive the light personally in us. Jesus met a blind man and portrayed his interest in him. The blind man was considered to be a great sinner by the people of his society. The blindness was a proof of his sins. Jews believed that the bodily sickness is the result of his sins. But, this blind man was a born blind. Understanding the belief of Jews, there arises many questions or at least two important questions.

a. For whose sins this man was born blind? Can he be a sinner before he was born?

b. How just it is to suffer for the sins of his parents?

For these questions, the Jews would answer that the man suffers for his forthcoming sins. Once again, is he the only man in Israel who had forthcoming sins? The Jews did not have answers for all these questions. But Jesus gives them the reason why the man born blind. He says, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life". Jesus meant what he said because he came to embrace the suffering of the outcaste, and those useless in the society.

God sent Jesus on a mission. In this mission, Jesus does the work of God. The work of God is to search for man. In this search, he found this blind man to establish the mighty healing hand of God. St. John says that Jesus came in to this world as a light. Anyone wishes to enjoy this light, must come to Jesus. All those who received the light became the sons and daughters of God. Jesus was a physical light to the blind man and a spiritual insight to his soul and heart.

- Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian

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+ **Bernard Moras**

**Archbishop of Bangalore**

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Paalanaa Bhavana

5, Nandidurg Road, Jayamahal Extension, Benson Town Post,  
Bangaluru 560046,