**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16 – VI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Looking up he replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking."**

**After the man had eaten from the tree of knowledge of good and of evil, he fell into death and death is not only of the body, it is also death of soul, of heart, of mind, of eyes, of ears. After sin, man has truly become deaf, blind, mute before his Lord. If his Lord had not assisted him with his grace, man would have remained in his death with no possibility of returning to see and to hear, to see God and to hear his Word.**

**We can compare the healing of the blind man fulfilled by Jesus to what the Lord has done to bring back man in his perfect healing. We can see the Old Testament as the gift of an initial sight, incipient, but not perfect sight. However, one begins to glimpse God in his truth and in his holiness. Even if the journey to fulfil to have a perfect sight is still very long and tiring. We can affirm, though, that every prophet and every wise man adds something to the previous sight so that one sees God better. From Abraham to Moses he sight has increased. Isaiah is the proclaimer of the uniqueness of God, but also of the Lordship of God over the people and over the nations: “Who has cupped in his hand the waters of the sea, and marked off the heavens with a span? Who has held in a measure the dust of the earth, weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or has instructed him as his counselor? Whom did he consult to gain knowledge? Who taught him the path of judgment, or showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations count as a drop in the bucket, as dust on the scales; the coastlands weigh no more than powder. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor its animals be enough for holocausts. Before him all the nations are as nought, as nothing and void he accounts them. To whom can you liken God? With what equal can you confront him? An idol, cast by a craftsman, which the smith plates with gold and fits with silver chains? Mulberry wood, the choice portion which a skilled craftsman picks out for himself, Choosing timber that will not rot, to set up an idol that will not be unsteady? One man helps another, one says to the other, "Keep on!" The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, the one who beats with the hammer, him who strikes on the anvil; He says the soldering is good, and he fastens it with nails to steady it.**

**Do you not know? Have you not heard? Was it not foretold you from the beginning? Have you not understood? Since the earth was founded He sits enthroned above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; He stretches out the heavens like a veil, spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings princes to nought and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted or sown, scarcely is their stem rooted in the earth, When he breathes upon them and they wither, and the stormwind carries them away like straw. To whom can you liken me as an equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these: He leads out their army and numbers them, calling them all by name. By his great might and the strength of his power not one of them is missing! Why, O Jacob, do you say, and declare, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know or have you not heard? The LORD is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint nor grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny. He gives strength to the fainting; for the weak he makes vigor abound. Though young men faint and grow weary, and youths stagger and fall, They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.” (Is 40, 12-31) This is a very high vision of the Lord, but this is not the perfect vision yet.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 8,22-26**

**When they arrived at Bethsaida, they brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes he laid his hands on him and asked, "Do you see anything?" Looking up he replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking." Then he laid hands on his eyes a second time and he saw clearly; his sight was restored and he could see everything distinctly. Then he sent him home and said, "Do not even go into the village."**

**In the New Testament, one walks from perfect vision into even more perfect vision. When is the gift of light perfect? When the mystery of Christ in his full truth is unveiled, and this unveiling happens through the work of the Apostle John, not only in his three Letters, not only in the Revelation, but also in the Gospel that is the last text of the Books that make up the New Testament:** “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** **And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.” (cf. Jn 1, 1-18) Now, the Holy Spirit, until the day of Parusia, shall lead us to the entire truth contained in the Word of God made flesh. Today it seems that we are coming back to the old blindness. We have decided to put Christ aside. But if Christ is put aside, blindness and darkness will immediately cover the Church and the world. Mother of God, give us the true Christ.**