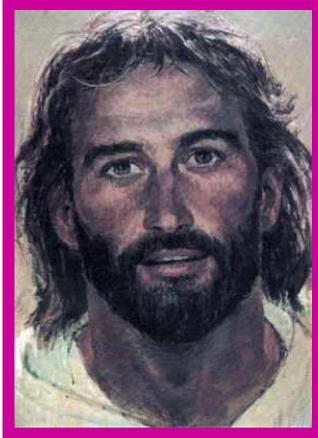


# Seeing Jesus in Poor Persons

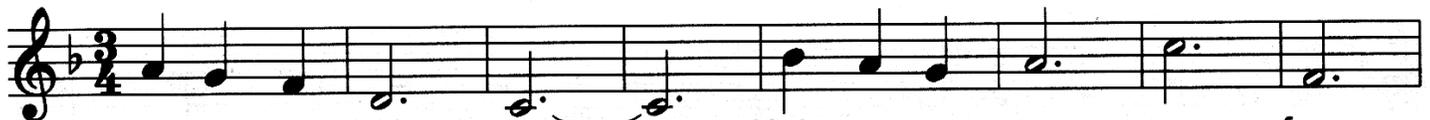


**Call to Prayer Leader:** Let's pause to reflect, as we focus our hearts and minds on God and on the opportunity we have to see Jesus in persons living in poverty.

**ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Reading** "God be praised, Ladies, for granting you the grace of clothing Our Lord in His poor members, most of whom had nothing but rags to cover them and several children were as naked as the back of my hand."  
*Conferences Vincent de Paul Coste, Vol. 13b, C198, page 428*

**Hymn** "Open My Eyes" verses 1-3



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.  
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
4. I live with - in you. Deep in your heart, O Love.



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.  
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.  
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.  
4. I live with - in you. Rest now in me.

Text: Based on Mark 8:22-25. Text and music © 1968, 1999, Jesse Manibusan. Published by spiritandsong.com  
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**Antiphon** All: **Jesus, source of grace, bless our efforts to serve You in others. Let our love be strong enough to replace our fear and wariness.**

**Psalm 72: 1-2, 4, 12-17, 19**

**Side 1** O God, with Your judgment and with Your justice, endow Your leader who shall govern Your people with justice and your afflicted ones with righteousness.

**Side 2** He shall defend those afflicted among the people, saving the children of those who are poor and crushing the one who oppresses them.

**Side 1** For he shall rescue the poor ones when they cry out and those who are afflicted when they have no one to help them.

**Side 2** Your leader shall have pity on persons who are needy and poor. He shall save the lives of those struggling with poverty.

**Side 1** To him, long life and continuous prayers; day by day, shall he be blessed.



**Side 2** Blessed be Your leader’s name forever;  
his name shall remain as long as the sun.

**Side 1** In him, shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;  
all nations shall proclaim their happiness.

**Side 2** And blessed forever be Your glorious name, O God,  
may the whole earth be filled with Your glory. Amen.

adapted from Psalms Anew, Schreck and Leach, pages 102-04

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

(Pray antiphon again.)

**Reader 1:** “... in all confraternities, ... the Servants of the Poor take for patron Our Lord Jesus and for its aim the accomplishment of His very ardent desire that Christians should practice among themselves the works of charity and mercy. This desire He makes clear to us in His own words: ... ‘Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat ... I was sick and you visited me ... for what you have done to the least of those, you did to me.’” Coste, 13b, C126, page 9

**Reader 2:** “The Association of the Charity has been founded to feed all the poor of the place where it [is] established, ... to honor Our Lord Jesus in the person of the poor, and to carry out His commandment that we love one another as He has loved us. ... Its patron is Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is Charity personified. Coste, 13b, C131, pages 40-41

**Response:** (All) “... in serving persons who are poor, we serve Jesus Christ. God “... accepts services [we] do for [poor] persons ... as done to Himself.” Coste, 9, C24, page 199

**Reflection Questions:**

When have I seen Jesus in my ministry as a Lady of Charity?  
How have I grown in my acceptance and care of others through my service?

**Response:** “Open My Eyes” verse 4

**Prayer:** (Pray together.) **O glorious St. Vincent, you never lost courage in spite of the difficulties you encountered in the path of your charitable ministry. Pray for us and ensure that the love of those living in poverty may never diminish in our hearts, but continue to increase and at our deaths, we may find the same mercy from God that the poor people receive from us. May we merit the eternal happiness of heaven promised by God to those who have loved poor persons during their lives. Amen.**

adapted from MANUAL of the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America, page 27

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**Prayer Texts**

**Matthew 17: 1 – 8** “This is my beloved Son ... Listen to him.”

**Matthew 25: 34 – 40** “As often as you did it for one of my least, you did it for me.”