

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Twenty Second Sunday After Pentecost

### Introduction to the Day

Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as “Son of David” he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won’t give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus’ question, “What do you want me to do for you?”

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us  
with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and  
oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as  
ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes  
you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your  
sins.

**Amen.**

### Gathering Song

“Blessed Be Your Name”

### Prayer of the Day

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Lesson – Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

### Children’s Message

## Gospel – Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup>As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

### Message

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

In reading this Gospel text, we hear things that we have heard before. We are left with a feel good story about good things happening, and all's well that ends well.

But, as always, there's more to it than just that.

So what do we hear, and where have we heard it before?

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- Numerous times we have heard Jesus referred to as more than teacher, or rabbi. This is another one of those instances. Jesus is referred to as his true identity, pointing to his lineage from David.

A crowd ordering someone shouting for Jesus to “be quiet.”

- In other stories where those who need healing are shouting for Jesus, the crowd is quick to shush them, telling them not to waste his time.

Someone pointing to Jesus' true identity is ordered to say nothing, “be quiet.”

- When the disciples have pointed to who Jesus is, the Messiah, the Son of Man, Jesus himself orders them to say nothing.

“He cried even more loudly.”

- When disciples are ordered to say nothing, they go and tell everyone what they know of Jesus!

“Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.”

- Whenever we hear someone in a crowd calling for Jesus, or when Jesus is approached by someone needing healing, Jesus responds with compassion, no matter what the crowd might have to say about it.

“Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

- There is always a community. Whenever there is a healing experience, there is always a community present. The community isn't always helpful, but the community is always present.

“What do you want me to do for you?”

- WE JUST HEARD THIS LAST WEEK! Jesus just asked his disciples this same exact question when they are fighting over who among them is greatest.

“Go, your faith has made you well.”

- Again, in seemingly each and every healing story, Jesus points back to the faith of the one who comes to be healed. It is the faith of the blind beggar that has him in that crowd that day, shouting for Jesus, Son of David. And, it is his faith that makes him well.

“...and he followed him on the way.”

- Those who are healed always follow, or at the very least go and tell everyone what Jesus has done.

Now, how all of these moments that we've experienced before happen aren't the same as they've happened in stories past.

In the past it is the disciples that have pointed to the true identity of Jesus, being God's son, the chosen one, the Messiah, and it is Jesus who is the one doing the shushing. Here it is a random beggar who knows that this is Jesus, Son of David. It is the crowd that is saying that he needs to be quiet. They don't want to hear his yelling. They don't want him to waste the teacher's time. So often it is the disciples who tell those who come to Jesus to stay away.

The other difference in these things we've heard before is the question, “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus JUST asked his arguing disciples this question. They wanted him to tell them who among them was greatest, and which seat they would get to sit in. Here it is a blind beggar that Jesus asks the question to. Jesus tells the disciples that they thing they ask for is not something he can give them, but rather is something for all people. Jesus responds to the blind beggar by healing him.

What this Gospel text is saying to us is found in the things that we've heard before that are similar to how we have heard them. Jesus has been telling his disciples and us, through various methods, what it means to be for the other. He has continually lifted up the insignificant among them, and here he shows them what he means by it.

Imagine the scene in that large crowd as the blind man repeatedly yells to be healed. The crowd tries to shush him but Jesus stops, stands still, and looks upon him with compassion. He calls him to him. And, the community responds. Sure, it says that he sprang up and ran to Jesus. But, he's blind. That community of people, that large crowd, is going to at least need to part in order for that man to get to Jesus! They will NEED to be a part of bringing that man forward to be healed.

When the man tells Jesus that he wishes to be healed, Jesus responds by speaking to the man's faith. “Your faith has made you well.” Again and again and again we here Jesus speak to the importance of people's faith, and the faith of the community, in healing miracles.

And this is no different. And in doing this Jesus tells us, shows us, who he is.

By stopping in the middle of the large crowd and telling them to bring the man to him, he shows us that he is for the ones that the masses would rather silence. AND, in doing so, he gives power to the COMMUNITY. “Call him here.” All of you, you are the ones that will tell him to come.

That is what OUR faith does for us.

It is OUR faith that brings us to Jesus, to compassion, into community, and into a life that is for the other person. It is in that community that we find wellness and wholeness. That when we don't feel that we can do it we are surrounded by a community that holds it all together for us. And it is that community, THIS community, that brings us into and back to a life that is for others.

Thanks be to God. Amen

**Song of the Day**

**“How Great is Our God”**

**Apostle's Creed**

## Prayers

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Risen One, we give you thanks for congregations and ministries throughout the world that serve as centers of prayer and action. Empower missionaries, teachers, healers, evangelists, and all who are sent to share your song of joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, we give you thanks for generous land that produces abundant harvests. Strengthen and protect all soils, from rooftop gardens to prairie farmlands, to patio planters to fertile valleys, and bless all who lovingly tend them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, we give you thanks for leaders of nations who work to build up the common good. Strengthen efforts of reconciliation among all nations, that peace extends in every direction. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing One, we give you thanks for all who labor for the health of others. Comfort and strengthen all who struggle with chronic pain. Send healing and relief to all who are sick (*especially Peyton, Kathy Smith, Matt Miller, Bob Hodges, Bob Kries, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Bill and Bonnie Kuehn, Steve Bradford, David Gunderson*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Providing One, we give you thanks for all who provide for others. Inspire generosity in your people, so that we carry out the work of making disciples of all nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living One, we give you thanks for the saints who have increased our faith. Give us courage to follow in hope until you gather us all around your table of abundance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**Amen.**

## Offering                    “Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone”

### Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,  
you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, “This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, “this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me.”

Once you've taken the elements say, "Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**"

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Communion Prayer**

**Sending Song**            **"All the People Said Amen"**

### **Blessing**

People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, † one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Operation Christmas Child**

The boxes are now available at the church for Operation Christmas Child. You can pick up a box and there is a label, so you know exactly what you to do with the boxes. Deadline to return them is Nov. 17.