

OCTOBER 10, 2021
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus is a merciful high priest.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad
Monday	Amos 5:6-15	Seek good and not evil
Tuesday	Hebrews 4:12-16	Jesus is the great high priest
Wednesday	2 John 7-11	Those who deny Christ
Thursday	Micah 7:18-20	God's compassion and steadfast love
Friday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 90:12-17	Teach us wisdom
Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to save

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and forgiveness, help us to see when we hurt others so that we may care for our neighbor with justice through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Compassionate God, we receive this food with thanksgiving. Help us respond to this gift by treating others with your kindness and mercy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of justice and mercy give you a heart of wisdom to love and to serve with gladness.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take My Life,
That I May Be*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you do after you feel you have been unkind or hurt someone's feelings?
- Is it harder to forgive others or yourself? Explain.
- Jesus knows our weaknesses and failings yet shows us kindness and mercy. How can knowing this influence how you live?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Hebrews 4:12-16.

God's word is like a sharp, two-edged sword that brings both judgment and forgiveness. The question is, which is God's final word for us? The answer Hebrews gives is through understanding Jesus in the sacrificial role of high priest, one who is like us in every way except that he is without sin. The high priest makes sacrifices on behalf of the people to receive God's forgiveness for their sins. What Jesus is able to do as our great high priest and the Son of God is to both experience and feel our weaknesses as a human being and as God. We have a God who fully understands us, sympathizes with us, and accepts us as we are. We can approach God with boldness and know that we receive mercy and grace. Jesus as the great high priest and the Son of God takes the sharp edge of the sword of God's judgment and adds to it God's love that forgives the sinner. Thanks be to God for Jesus, the great high priest, the Son of God, who comes to save, not to condemn. How does Jesus as our great high priest help you understand judgement and forgiveness?

Pray: **God of mercy and grace, free our lives to live courageously for our neighbor and with loving hearts toward you through Jesus, the great high priest. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Mark 10, the rich man left Jesus grieving because he was attached to his wealth. Money and having possessions can cause us to be selfish and only care for ourselves. Another way to use wealth can be to serve others and show our love for God and all humanity. How can you serve others with your wealth this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is "living and active". There are many Bible translations. The NRSV (New Revised Standard Version), NIV (New International Version), KJV (King James Version), and CEV (Contemporary English Version) are just a few of many others. During devotions this week, look up the *Daily Bible Readings* using different translations and note what is similar and what is different. Think or talk about how the scripture you read is alive and active in your life.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org