

OCTOBER 17, 2021  
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Servanthood is the heart of discipleship.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 10:35-45</b>	<b>The Son of Man came to save</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 53:4-12</b>	<b>Suffering servant song</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Hebrews 5:1-10</b>	<b>Jesus the great high priest</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 4:1-13</b>	<b>The ministry of the apostles</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Joshua 22:1-6</b>	<b>Joshua speaks to the tribes</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 John 3:16-24</b>	<b>Love one another</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 91:9-16</b>	<b>God's protection</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 10:46-52</b>	<b>Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[W]hoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all."*

**Mark 10:43b-44 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of compassion, help us to see what you see and to treasure what you treasure through Christ Jesus, the one who came to serve and set us free. Amen. (Mark 10:45)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this food you serve us each day; may we serve others in a godly way. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord rescue you from trouble and give you a servant's heart through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Psalm 91:15)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lead Me, Guide Me*



### 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:

- Who do you look up to? What is it about that person that you want to imitate?
- If you asked Jesus what you needed to do to follow him, what do you think he would say?
- Jesus knows our weaknesses and failings yet shows us kindness and mercy. How can knowing this influence how you live?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 10:35-45.

We may be tempted to think that prayer puts God in our back pocket to use as we wish. Not so! As Jesus pointed out, James and John did not even know what they were really asking of Jesus. To ask the Son of Man for something, is to ask the source of the universe who has a different standard of what is important and what is valued. James and John wanted glory. Jesus wants love and service; openness to suffering is the glory Jesus sees. James and John wanted power. Jesus redefines power into servanthood and bondage to the needs of others as a slave. As Jesus gets closer to Jerusalem, there exists a growing urgency about understanding what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus puts it in crystal clear terms, but words that do not necessarily please our "old world" way of seeing goodness, truth, and beauty, or power and glory. You want to know what it means to follow Jesus? Pay close attention to Jesus' words: *"whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all"* (vv. 43b-44). How does being a servant—even a slave—upend your understanding of a successful life?

*Pray:* **God of power and glory, cleanse us of our desire for personal glory and give us hearts for love and service through Christ Jesus, the Holy One of God. Amen.**

### SERVICE

According to Jesus, doing acts of service is not so much a list of projects as it is a way of life. How is your life a life of service? How is caring for the needs of others a life you wish to pursue with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength? Take time this week to use your gifts to serve others with a glad heart.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 10, Jesus talks about kings who like to order people around and have full power over their lives. Jesus tells us not to be like them, but to be servants of others, a much, more humble way of life. This week pray: **Dear God, give me a humble heart that I may gladly be a servant of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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