

OCTOBER 24, 2021
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Israel will return to its land
Tuesday	Hebrews 7:23-28	Our Lord is a priest
Wednesday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Thursday	2 Chronicles 30:1-9	Hezekiah prepares for Passover
Friday	Proverbs 28:10-13	The law of God makes sense
Saturday	Psalms 126	Song of joy
Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to [Bartimaeus], "Go; your faith has made you well."
Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*
Mark 10:52 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen. (Mark 10:48)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us in body and soul as you bless us with the gift of this food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you a heart to dream and a voice filled with shouts of joy. (Psalm 126:1-2)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

To Be Your Presence



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 is something you dream might happen in your life?
- Is it easy or hard for you to admit when you need help? Explain.
- At times, faith can feel like pleading to God for help. Give an example from your life.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:46-52.

In Mark 8:22-26 Jesus heals another blind man. However, in that instance, it took a couple of tries and the man is sent away back to his home. With Bartimaeus, Jesus heals the blindness instantly, and, this time, the man joins Jesus immediately. Something is happening. Jesus is now closer to Jerusalem and the real testing of his identity as Savior. Bartimaeus utters words that the church will expand and recite throughout its history. Those words are called the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus acknowledges Bartimaeus' faith. It involves the life experience of need, of hope, of a dream, just like people have expressed through Psalm 126. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem and his trial, suffering, and death, he clarifies what it means to be a disciple. It looks like someone much like Bartimaeus, someone in great need with great hopes and dreams, someone seeing hope realized in Jesus, the Son of David, Lord of lords, King of kings. What do you need from Jesus?

Pray: **God of mercy and hope, give us faith to trust in you and joy to follow you all the days of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Savior and God. Amen.**

SERVICE

Statistics from the World Health Organization state that there are at least 2.2 billion people globally who are blind or have a vision impairment. At least one million of them could have been prevented. Used eyeglasses can be donated to a variety of organizations to be recycled and distributed to those in need or uninsured. Do you or someone you know have eyeglasses they no longer use that could be donated to a local organization?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Bartimaeus' plea to Jesus is very close to one of the many historic versions of the Jesus Prayer used for spiritual formation: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Pray this prayer daily before reading Psalm 126, a song of joy. Confessing our need for God is freeing, healing, and meant to be filled with joy, yes, leading us even to laughter.



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