

OCTOBER 27, 2024
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Followers seek mercy from Jesus.

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 high priest
Wednesday	Psalms 25:4-7	Prayer for guidance
Thursday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Friday	Romans 15:1-13	Please others, not yourselves
Saturday	Psalms 126	Song of joy
Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to him [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:

Merciful God, you who bring us hope and healing, may we see in Jesus the one who brings us from loneliness to a life of joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you fill our bodies with this gift of food, fill our spirits with joy and laughter in your presence through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be filled with laughter and shouts of joy through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 126:2)



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OCTOBER 27, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Day by Day



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:

- When is a time you have felt like an outsider?
- When is a time you have experienced Jesus' presence in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:46-52.

This story gives us important information about followers of Jesus. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sits along a roadside. He is an outsider. He sits alone without family or other supportive community. He's poor; he's not a contributor to his people; and, he's blind. And yet, contrary to the twelve disciples, he does see Jesus in a way that is captivating. He seeks what all need to seek from Jesus, mercy. He acknowledges Jesus as the Son of David and as his teacher. He's persistent in his request. He responds to Jesus' call by springing up and throwing off the only worldly good that could give him comfort or status, his cloak. He gives it all up and springs into action. Jesus affirms Bartimaeus' faith and the blind man gains his sight; and, without delay Bartimaeus follows Jesus. In contrast to the rich man in Mark 10:17-31, Bartimaeus doesn't walk away, doesn't hesitate, and doesn't return to his prior status and possessions. No longer on the side of the road, he follows Jesus on the road. He's "all in."

Discuss: When have you been excited about Jesus' presence in your life of faith and felt "all in"?

Pray: **God of mercy and strength, help us to see as Bartimaeus sees that our lives may be filled with the joy and mercy you bring to us through Christ Jesus, the Son of David. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring joy and laughter to someone who feels like an outsider?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Think or talk about a time when you thanked someone and showed appreciation for what they did for you. Was it a gift, an act of kindness, a note, or something else? Then think or talk about a time you have thanked God for something. Psalm 126:3 says, *"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced."* Write a thank you note to God and use it as a bookmark in your Bible as a reminder to be thankful and rejoice in what God has done for you.



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