

Church of the Divine Love
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 25

OCTOBER 24, 2021

10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #671 – **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Jeremiah 31:7-9**

Psalm 126

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 7:23-28**

Gradual Hymn #693, vs. 1-3 – **Just as I am**

Gospel: **Mark 10: 46-52**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #493 – **O for a thousand tongues to sing**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – #411 – O bless the Lord, my soul!	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on back of bulletin	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #460, vs. 1-4 – Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	

Sermon Sunday October 24, 2021

Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 10: 46-52

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

“My teacher, let me see again.” It’s the obvious answer to Jesus’ question. What else would a blind man ask for? It may be the obvious answer, but it is not always the answer given. No one wants to be blind. That’s not the question. The deeper question is whether we really want to see. Do we really want to see the reality of our lives, things done and left undone, who we are and who we are not? Do we really want to see the needs of our neighbor, the poor, or the marginalized? Do we really want to see the injustices of the world? Do we really want to see who Jesus is and not just who we wish or want him to be?

“Do you really want to see?” That’s the question Bartimaeus must answer. True seeing is more than simply observing with our physical eyes. It implies relationship and a deeper knowing and understanding. This happens when we see with the eyes of faith. This seeing, however, is not without risk. If we really want to see, then we must be willing to change and be changed. We must be willing to leave behind what is, to receive what might be.

Sometimes that risk is too much. We turn a blind eye and choose not to see. This is not about physical blindness. It is a spiritual condition. Peter rightly declared Jesus to be the Christ but when Jesus began to teach about his own suffering, rejection, and death Peter rebuked Jesus. Peter could not see how that could be the way of the Messiah, God’s anointed one (Mk. 8:27-33). The disciples argued among themselves about who was the greatest. They were unable to see that “whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all” (Mk. 9:35). The rich man wanted to inherit eternal life, but he just could not see his way clear to selling all his possessions and giving the money to the poor (Mk. 10:17-22).

For most of us life is neither all seeing nor all blindness. There are times when we get it and times when we do not. That’s how it was for Bartimaeus too. It wasn’t always darkness. Remember, Bartimaeus asks to “see again.” At the end of the story, we are told that he “regained his sight.” There was a time when

Bartimaeus saw. There was a time when he and the world were filled with light. Bartimaeus has known darkness and he has known light. He has had vision and he has been blind. Both are a reality for Bartimaeus and for us. Jesus offers a clear vision of what true life looks like. To the extent we do not share that vision we are blind. We live in darkness. As tragic as blindness is, the greater tragedy is when we do not even see that we are blind. We bump and stumble our way through life believing that this is as good as it gets. We are content to sit by the roadside and beg.

How and what we see determine the world we live in and the life we live. Bartimaeus knows this. He is a blind beggar. He is going nowhere. The world passes by, but his life remains unchanged. Every day is the same. He sits by the roadside, holds out the cloak of his blindness, and begs. He lives in darkness. There is no illumination within him or around him. The darkness covers him like a cloak. At some point or another all of us sit by the roadside, a beggar, cloaked in darkness, unable to see. We are blind.

This blindness happens in many different ways. Sometimes it is the darkness of grief, sorrow, and loss. Sin and guilt blind us to what our life could be. Other times we live in the darkness of fear, anger, or resentment. Doubt and despair can distort and impair our vision. Failures, disappointments, and shattered dreams can darken our world. There are times when we hide amongst the shadows neither wanting to see nor to be seen. Perhaps the deepest darkness is when we become lost to ourselves, not knowing who we are or the beauty of our creation and existence. The list could go on and on. The darkness fills and covers us in a thousand different ways. I do not know what caused Bartimaeus' blindness. In some ways it does not matter. What matters more is that he knew he was blind. He held his blindness before Christ believing and hoping that there was more to who he was and what his life could be. It was out of that knowing, believing, and hoping that he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." That is the cry of one who abandons himself or herself to God. The one who cannot see cries out to be seen. It is the cry that stopped Jesus in his tracks. Mercy is like that. "Call him here," Jesus said. With that calling the depths of human darkness meet the heights of divine light, misery meets compassion, and what is, meets what might be.

Bartimaeus stands before Jesus. Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" That is not just a question for Bartimaeus. It is a question for everyone who has ever sat by the roadside of life, everyone who has ever lived in darkness, everyone who has ever begged for life. It is a question for you and for me. It is a question Jesus asks of us over and over, again and again. There is no universal answer. There is only our answer at this time and place in our life. Tomorrow's answer may be different from today's.

Jesus' question offers a turning point, a new beginning. It asks us to look deep within ourselves, to face what is, and name what we want. So, what do you want Jesus to do for you? I am asking what would make you feel better, fix a particular problem, or make your life more comfortable. What is the one thing you need today that will open your eyes to see yourself, others, and all of creation as beautiful and holy? What is the one thing you need today that will allow you to throw off the cloak of darkness? What is the one thing you need today that will take you from sitting and begging by the roadside to following on the way? They are hard but important questions. They are the questions. They are the questions that will change your life.

Jesus saw Bartimaeus' faith. And Jesus honored his prayer. He gave him what he wanted the most. He healed his eyes and his soul. His life shone with the love of God for all humanity. What do you pray for? What do you want Jesus to do for you today? David said: "Whom have I in heaven but you; and being with you, I desire nothing on earth." (Ps.73:25) Paul's heart's desire was this: "I want to know Christ."

(Phi.3:10) Jesus' prayer was this: "Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you." (John 17:1) If your heart's desires are in this world, you pray greedily for selfish things. And when your heart's desires are noble, you pray according to the noble desire of your hearts. Be noble in your heart's desire. Let your prayer reflect the will of God! And persist— until your prayer is answered. "Lord, make me a servant. Make me humble like you. Use me in the gospel work to reflect your love and mercy to everyone, until they too come to know you and love you and serve you. Bless your church to grow more and more in your image and to fulfill its purpose until the kingdom of God comes upon us. **Amen!**

22 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, II (also on zoom)

MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

SUNDAY – 23 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

11:15 AM VESTRY MEETING

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Girard Bishop	Chrissy Neville	Dorothy
Nathan Treadwell	John Loubengeiger	Del
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Julia
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	John Scally
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Christopher & Family	People of Haiti
Victims of Natural Disasters	Victims of Terrorism	

The departed: Marge Repole

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and for ever. Amen. *BCP Page 815*