

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

23rd Sunday after Pentecost + Saturday, October 26, 2024



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as "Son of David" he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won't give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you?"*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

You are the treasured people of the LORD,  
**a people holy to the LORD our God.**

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

One does not live by bread alone,

**but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

## SCRIPTURE SONG

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;

just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

For you alone are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and worship before you,

for your just and holy works have been revealed.

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-9**

*This passage speaks not only of the southern kingdom, Judah, and its homecoming from exile in Babylon, but also of the northern kingdom ("Israel" or "Ephraim") and its restoration. The northern tribes of Israel had been lost in exile to Assyria more than a century before Jeremiah prophesied.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

- <sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.
- <sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
- <sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.
- <sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 7:23-28**

*Human priests of old offered sacrifice for their own sins and served only until their death. In contrast, Jesus is God’s Son, the holy, sinless, resurrected high priest. Death did not terminate his priestly service, but through his death he has interceded for our sins.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!**

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!**

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!**

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52**

*Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again. Recognizing Jesus' identity, Bartimaeus is the first person to call him "Son of David" in the Gospel of Mark.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>46</sup> As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup> So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." <sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION**

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen**

## **PEACE**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website [www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html](http://www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html). Please consider making this gift a recurring gift, and look for ways to grow in your giving for the sake of Christ's mission through this congregation. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

Eternal Counselor, guide the church along your paths of mercy. Direct it to be a refuge where all are genuinely welcomed and their gifts are celebrated. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Nurturer, preserve natural places for rest and rejuvenation. Guide the work of conservationists, park managers, urban planners, gardeners, and all caretakers of natural spaces. Attune us to the wonders we disregard or fail to notice. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Wisdom, strengthen the voices of those who cry out for change to unjust systems. Give lawmakers, judges, and all those who occupy seats of power listening and compassionate hearts. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Compassion, train us to respond to the cries of those in any kind of need. Give encouragement and comfort to those who call out for relief from pain, grief, or oppression, especially those whose names we speak now out loud, in our hearts or by listing online. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Servant, grant vision and wisdom to the church so that those who are in need are not ignored. May the command of Jesus to love our neighbor sharpen our focus for work in the kingdom. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Hope, may the legacy of the saints inspire us every day. We hold fast to the promise that we will be together in your presence forever. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A PLACE FOR US IN *THE GREATEST STORY*.** After Worship Community-Wide Bible Study. After worship each week, we'll pause for fellowship and snacks, then reassemble to see, listen and discuss a different part of the Bible. We will use the [Greatest Story Curriculum](#) from our churchwide publishing house to guide our discovery. Here's some of what you can expect along the way.

**TRUNK OR TREAT.** Sunday, October 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year we are inviting everyone, children of all ages, to come to our **Trunk or Treat: *Escape from Egypt Extravaganza!*** Each car will be decorated to tell a story of how God saved his people from slavery in Egypt. There will be snakes and frogs ... and lots of candy! Register to decorate a car and/or sign up your family and friends using the sign up sheet in the lounge.

**COLLECTING MONEY FOR HURRICANE RELIEF IN NORTH CAROLINA.** We are collecting an offering to send to a congregation that runs a food pantry in the Asheville area. You can give to this offering online, in worship or at our Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 27.

**REMEMBERING THE SAINTS.** November 2-3 in worship (5:30 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.) In Christ we are united with the saints of all times and all places in praise and worship of the one who saves us from the power of sin and death and gives life to the whole creation. Next weekend, we will celebrate the Festival of All Saints and remember with gratitude those who have gone before us in faith. Please fill out a remembrance form in the lounge so that we can include in our prayers the names of your loved ones who have died in the Lord. Bishop Bartholomew will be with us in worship on Nov. 3.

**A SEASON OF GRATITUDE.** All of November. As we head toward our day of National Thanksgiving at the end of November, we will embark on a Month of

Gratitude at St. Paul's. Throughout the month we will take time to reflect on and share with each other what we are most thankful for as part of this fellowship.

**NJ SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY. November 22-24, at the Sheraton in Edison.** All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join other youth from around New Jersey for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun! Our theme this year is Created to Be! following the ELCA Youth Gathering and summer camp theme. Registration is now open. If you are interested in going, see Pastor Jim.

**JOIN THE CHOIR.** The choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. each week. Come and add your voice and lead us all in singing God's praise.

**WALKING AT ROOSEVELT PARK. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at skating rink entrance and enjoy fellowship and walk around the park.

**DAILY PRAYER.** Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are two ways to make daily prayer part of your life: a daily service of morning prayer and a daily service of night prayer.

**Morning Prayer:** Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the [St. Paul's Website](#) and the St. Paul's Facebook each morning. You can listen and pray along from your home or take it with you as you exercise or commute.

**Night Prayer.** End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.** to share what has been happening in their day, to let go of each day's trouble and to participate in a brief service of night prayer. Zoom log info: Meeting ID = 401 244 599 + Password: 042662

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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