

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MARK 10:46-52



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(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

*Please stand if comfortably able.
Respond with words in bold print

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:

BELL IS RUNG:

PRELUDE: “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”
John M. Rasley

PENNIES FOR MISSION: Neighbors in Need

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Psalm 34)**

One: Look to the Holy One and be radiant! Bless God at all times.

Many: We praise God who is with us. We honor God who sustains, redeems, and delivers.

One: Look to the Holy One and be radiant! Boast in the Holy One.

Many: We seek the Holy One who hears our cries with grace, mercy, and compassion.

One: Look to the Holy One and be radiant! Magnify God with me.

Many: O taste and see, hear and proclaim, touch and know that God is good. Bless the Holy One!

***INVOCATION:**

Loving God, it is good to be with you in the company of the assembly. When we seek you, we find you. When we pray, you respond. When we listen, your voice sounds. Make your presence palpable in the places we gather. We come to be formed, informed, and transformed by

your lavish and bountiful love for your glory and for all you hold within your heart. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: 451 “Be Thou My Vision”**

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**
Gracious God, break our hearts for what breaks yours. Forgive us for hearts that are sometimes cold with indifference. Forgive us for hearts sometimes hard with intractability. Forgive us for hearts closed with isolation. Open our hearts fully to compassion and companionship with our neighbor and your vision of a beloved kingdom come. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE:**

Beloved, your heart bears the heart of God. With the Holy One’s grace, heartbreak can transform into compassion, mutuality, and ministry that makes the love of God real in the world.

***GLORIA:**

Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat twice)
(end) One God always here. One God always here.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” Video

FIRST TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-9

From The Message

Jeremiah’s announcement that Israel would receive salvation by being returned from exile. Psalm 126, with its prayers for restoration and cries of celebration, directly continues and responds to both the content and mood of the Jeremiah passage.

⁷ Oh yes, God says so:

“Shout for joy at the top of your lungs for Jacob!

Announce the good news to the number-one nation!

Raise cheers! Sing praises. Say,

‘God has saved his people,
saved the core of Israel.’

⁸ “Watch what comes next:

“I’ll bring my people back
from the north country

And gather them up from the ends of the earth,
gather those who’ve gone blind

And those who are lame and limping,
gather pregnant women,

Even the mothers whose birth pangs have started,
bring them all back, a huge crowd!

⁹ “Watch them come! They’ll come weeping for joy
as I take their hands and lead them,

Lead them to fresh flowing brooks,

lead them along smooth, uncluttered paths.

Yes, it's because I'm Israel's Father
and Ephraim's my firstborn son!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 126 Page 707-708

SECOND TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus' high priesthood is compared with the Levitical priesthood and found to be unique.

²³ The others who became priests are numerous because death prevented them from continuing to serve. ²⁴ In contrast, he holds the office of priest permanently because he continues to serve forever. ²⁵ This is why he can completely save those who are approaching God through him, because he always lives to speak with God for them.

²⁶ It's appropriate for us to have this kind of high priest: holy, innocent, incorrupt, separate from sinners, and raised high above the heavens. ²⁷ He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day like the other high priests, first for their own sins and then for the sins of the people. He did this once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ The Law appoints people who are prone to weakness as high priests, but the content of the solemn pledge, which came after the Law, appointed a Son who has been made perfect forever.

***GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 10:46-52**
Healing of blind Bartimaeus

⁴⁶ Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" ⁴⁸ Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward."

They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you."

⁵⁰ Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

⁵² Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

These are the ancient words revealed to us anew.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE: "This story is different"

This passage joins Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126 in the mood of joy as the blind, lame, and sorrowing shout and sing their way up to Zion (Jerusalem). This story has many points of interest for us; some hidden, some obvious. Yet in many ways it is different from the healing stories we are used to reading.

As in many of the stories in the Gospel of Mark, we must look two places for meaning. The first is the location of the story. You might recall when Jesus was asked by the Pharisees about divorce and marriage. This discussion was held in the region ruled by King Herod. Herod had married his brother's wife and John the Baptist lost his head because he criticized Herod for that.

By placing today's story of healing blind Bartimaeus immediately prior to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, Mark has made this healing a prelude to that festive occasion and in a sense has put Bartimaeus in the parade.

Internally, Mark 10:46-52 is a healing story, bearing some traits common to other such stories in this Gospel, but with other familiar characteristics missing. It is an "on the way" story with the usual cast of characters: Jesus, the Twelve, a huge crowd, and a person in need. In this case, the one in need is named, perhaps an indication that Bartimaeus was known to the Markan church.

Bartimaeus is persistent; the blind man makes his plea to Jesus, and Jesus pronounces him healed by faith. Although released to go his own way, the healed Bartimaeus chooses follow Jesus "on the way". Noticeably absent are the attempts to find privacy for the healing and the charge to be silent and tell anyone how he was healed. What's different? Perhaps because Jesus is on his way to declare to the Jewish court, that he

is the Christ. The situation for him is completely different.

Who is Bartimaeus? Bartimaeus is the very image of one without anything to offer, anything to claim; he is a blind beggar. Should we acknowledge only the people who can give us something? The disciples thought so. They kept telling him to be quiet. It's the same response that the disciples gave to the woman with the blood flow, and to those who brought children.

Mark's dramatic arrangement of this narrative, one thing is clear; there is no room here for any sense of superiority over the characters in the text. The crowd tried to silence a blind beggar whose cries for help were an annoyance to their triumphant parade with Jesus. But who among us has not done the same? And the Twelve, insiders all the way and privy to Jesus' painful disclosures about his approaching passion, heard all and heart nothing, saw all and still were blind.

Is there a "hero" in this story? The blind see, the seeing are blind. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER:

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

**Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth you have for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unlock and set me free.
Silently now, on bended knee,**

**Ready I wait your will to see;
Open my eyes illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth you send so clear;
And while the message sounds in my ear,
Everything false will disappear.
Silently now, on bended knee,
Ready I wait your will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, an let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with your children thus to share.
Silently now, on bended knee,
ready I wait your will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Gracious God, we thank you for all that you provide and the blessings we receive daily from you. We know that, at times, we feel hopeless amid so much uncertainty in our world, but we trust you, O God, to bring us peace. And to give us comfort when we are overwhelmed with anxiety. Please help us be calm in the chaos around us and give us the strength to overcome.

Compassionate God, we lift prayers for the homeless, the hungry, the lonely, the rejected, those left behind, and all suffering injustice in our community and the world. We pray for all those on our prayer list and those we hold in our hearts. Hear their cries for healing, wholeness, and acceptance, O loving God.

Loving God, we pray that our hearts will be open to the change that needs to happen here on earth so your Sovereignty will be a reality and all your creation will sing your praises. Please help us to see each other as gifts from you. Let us enthusiastically embrace your love to share the good news with those who need to hear and receive your amazing grace. As we pray together . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: (Repeat last lines of pre hymn)

**Silently now, on bended knee,
Ready I wait your will to see;
Open my eyes illumine me, Spirit divine!**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:

Generosity begins as a decision from the heart. It reflects care and concern for the needs of the world as well as trust for the abundance and plenty of God's creation. Let us give from the gifts we have been given as a sign and act of faithfulness.

OFFERTORY: "With Prayerful Heart" Bertha R. Frick

***DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION:**

Loving God, bless us with increased generosity, trust, and faithfulness. Receive these gifts as an offering of praise. May needs be met, lives be changed, and hearts be warmed through our giving. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: 52 "O How I Love Jesus"**

***BENEDICTION:**

Take heart for God goes with you. Therefore,
May your heart love fully and boldly
May your heart love loudly and actively
May your heart love faithfully and miraculously.
Go in peace and love.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

POSTLUDE: "Onward, Christian Soldiers" Lani Smith