

Home Service for October 24, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

You might notice a few changes. You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

Taste and see that the Lord is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Call to Worship:

Take heart, Christ is calling us. He beckons us to come . . .
Come near to him. Stand before Christ. "What do you want me to do?" he asks.
We have come here; We're drawn here. We desire to be here. To have our sight restored.

Opening Prayer:

Great Triune God, through Jesus Christ, our great and eternal High Priest, we give you praise and consecrate ourselves to follow you. As we worship you and celebrate your glorious resurrection, open our eyes so that we may see; open the eyes of our mind to learning and understanding; open the eyes of our heart, to love and compassion; open the eyes of our soul, to see our spiritual selves during our time of worship. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

We think that we want to be healed of our blindness, gracious God, but actually we have become so comfortable in our darkness that we fear the light. It is as though we are living in a cave, and rather than take a risk to face the light, we prefer to face the dark wall. Give us courage to take risks which will result in not only our own transformation, but also the transformation opportunities for others. Forgive our stubborn insistence on living in darkness. Take our hands and lead us to the light. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Turn and see the light of God's love. It is lavished upon you. You have been healed and made whole in God's love. Be at peace and rejoice!

Read Psalm 34:1-8

I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.

²I will glory in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

³Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.

⁶This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Prayers of the People:

Why is it that we are afraid to cry aloud out need to God? We sit in our darkness and cry and complain about the dire circumstances that have overtaken us. Yet, when given the opportunity to approach the Savior who offers us light and healing, we cower in the darkness, not daring to believe that healing and light are possible for us. The darkness of our souls invades all of our lives; it colors our attitudes and determines our actions. Lord Jesus, come and shine your light not only on us, but in us and eventually through us. Break the barriers we have erected against peace, freedom, and hope. Bathe us in the light of love, and we shall become bearers of that incredible light for others who dwell in darkness. As we receive the light from you, give us courage and confidence to reach out in compassion and service in your name. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

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 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

Read the Lesson: Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Then Job replied to the LORD:

²“I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’

⁵My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. ¹¹ All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver^[a] and a gold ring.

¹² The LORD blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. ¹³ And he also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

¹⁶ After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. ¹⁷ And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

Read the Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 7:23-28

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely^[a] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Read the Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Message

Today we are looking at a miracle that Jesus had performed. It is important to remind ourselves of the purpose of Jesus’ miracles. As Jesus performed miracles, they were very beneficial to the ones who were given healing. The lame could walk, the deaf could hear, and this morning the blind man could see again. The

underlining purpose of every miracle of Jesus was to reveal to the people who were gathered there that, indeed, he was the very Son of God. Jesus was more than just the son of Mary and Joseph. Jesus was more than just a carpenter. Jesus was God's own Son and had the power to do anything and everything he so desired.

In the Gospel when we hear Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." Time and again the Lord Jesus did just that, he showed mercy. It was part of Jesus' ministry to show to the world the power of God through his teaching, preaching, and miracles. In each miracle we are reminded how God was with Jesus. In each miracle we see not only how God was with Jesus, but Jesus was with mankind. In this way Jesus shows his power to us. We always need God's help. We want to use the words of blind Bartimaeus as our words, our theme this morning: SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY.

Our text takes place before Palm Sunday. We see that Jesus was still quite popular. He had a large crowd following him. The disciples were with Jesus. They traveled together. Jesus was at the height of his popularity. They walked by a man called Bartimaeus. We are told he is blind and a beggar. Sadly, during that time those who were blind ended up as beggars. They had no training for the blind for different jobs. So they were relegated to the side of the road in poverty and begging depending on the mercy of those who passed by. Jesus was passing by. Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus' miracles. He knew even more than that; because as you listen to those words, there are two descriptions given to us. The crowd recognized Jesus of Nazareth: as the carpenter's son, the son of Mary and Joseph. Bartimaeus calls him Jesus, Son of David. Maybe he could not see physically but spiritually he had some divine insight. He recognized in Jesus that Jesus was God's Son. Bartimaeus recognized in Jesus that he came to remove the sins of the world.

Bartimaeus cries out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." Those with Jesus didn't want this beggar along the side of the road to disturb Jesus. They didn't want to interrupt their journey into Jericho. They were having a good time in the company of Jesus. When they "told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'" Bartimaeus did not give up. He cried out for help again. He said, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Bartimaeus probably never, ever thought that he would see again. When Jesus was near he could not stop from crying out for help even when the crowd tried to stop him. Let us look at what happens: "Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him,'." Jesus had heard Bartimaeus, and Jesus wasn't going to pass him by. Jesus said, "Call him."

We see in the next part of this verse that the crowd already has an inkling of what is going to happen: "So they called to the blind man, 'Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.'" They realized if Jesus is willing to stop for this blind man, he is going to do something. Even though the same crowd said to Bartimaeus, "Just be quiet and don't say much." Now when Jesus says to call him, the crowd says, "Get up and be of good cheer. The Lord is calling you."

Bartimaeus jumps up and throws his cloak aside. This was his cloak, which was probably his only possession, his only blanket of security. Bartimaeus knows he has Jesus in front of him. There was a simple exchange: "'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus asked him." The answer: 'Rabbi, I want to see.'" Of course Bartimaeus wants to see. Of course, Jesus is going to give him back his physical sight. "'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.'" Bartimaeus could see, and now that he could see he didn't have to sit at the side of the road anymore. He could walk on the road. Now because he could see, Bartimaeus could follow Jesus. All simply because he called out, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many times our difficulty is to be persistent in pleading to God for mercy. Persistence is closely connected with prayer. We need to remember the beggar Bartimaeus on the road; not very high standing, socially. When he cries out, the crowd tries to make him be quiet. He doesn't, because he knows Jesus can help. Sometimes we ask God for mercy; and if we don't get the answer, we might forget and blame him for not hearing us. The Lord says we need to come back and ask for mercy every day. We need to come back and see the Lord is merciful and compassionate.

The Lord says to us, as Bartimaeus reminds us, we can cry out anytime, many times, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" We can cry out for help, for sight. Then the promise, the blessing we have is the miracle that we see here; that the Lord Jesus Himself provides us with divine healing.

So we need never feel ashamed to cry out, "Son of David, have mercy!" Instead in that way the Lord shows his great power. In that way the Lord shows us his love when we cry out, "Son of David, have mercy!" We realize that without God we have no mercy; without God we have no future. We are like blind beggars who have been given sight. "Son of David, have mercy on us!" Daily we cry out for God's help, his sight, his healing and mercy. Then the Lord graciously and abundantly, day after day, provides us with his divine healing for our souls. God saves us. He shows us His mercy in spite of ourselves, and our reaction should be, we cry out day after day, "Son of David, have mercy." Amen.

Benediction:

Darkness has been banished. Sight has been restored. Your lives are reformed in Christ's love. Go now in peace to serve with great joy. Bring the love of God with you so that the light which has brightened your life may shine for others. Go now, beloved, to serve. AMEN.