

Bulletin for Sunday, October 24, 2021 For Distribution

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷Thus 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." ⁸See, 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. ⁹With 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 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like^l those who dream.

²**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."**

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Hebrews 7:23-28

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

intercession for them. ²⁶For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike 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. ²⁸For 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

p.151

Gospel – Mark 10:46-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pentecost 22 - What Do You Want Me to Do for You?-Mark 10:46-52

Who doesn't love blind Bartimaeus? Here is a man who knows what he wants and goes after it no matter how much he embarrasses everyone else. “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” he shouts. His fellow townspeople are mortified. “Shut up!” they say. “Be quiet, you hollering maniac! The one celebrity we get in this town and you yell at him like a yoke!” Bartimaeus doesn't care. He knows Jesus has what he needs and

he is going after it. He will not be silenced. We could learn a lot about boldness in prayer from Bartimaeus. We could learn a lot about asking for what we need.

But even more important than Bartimaeus' persistence in this gospel is Jesus' response to him. Bartimaeus is hollering and causing a ruckus, and "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.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'"

This is one of the most important moments in the entirety of the gospels for telling us about who Jesus is. Jesus does not assume that Bartimaeus wants to be made able to see. He does not assume that Bartimaeus sees his blindness as a disability. Furthermore, although Jesus undoubtedly knows what is best for Bartimaeus, Jesus does not force it on him. Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Neither does Jesus impose his will on us, or make any assumptions about what we need or want. He asks us as openly as he asks Bartimaeus: "What do you want me to do for you?"

Just by asking this one question, Jesus provides us with a mechanism to delve deeper spiritually. It's a deceptively simple question. On the surface, it seems like a matter of value exchange. What can we earn or get from our relationship with Jesus? But if we spend time with this question we find new truths opening up within ourselves.

Let's sit with the question ourselves. Jesus asks us, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Well, first off, Jesus, it would be great if you could make our churches successful.

Is that really what we want? He asks us again, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Could you magically make all our money and membership worries go away?

Again, that would be great, but that's not really what we truly want at the bottom of our hearts. We know because he's asking us again, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Okay, we'll try again. Jesus, could you make our ministries a success? No, that doesn't feel right either.

"What do you want me to do for you?"

Could you make us successful as disciples and ministers? No, still not it. We're starting to dig through the layers of our ego as Jesus continues to ask us this pivotal question. If we dig deep enough, maybe we'll hit our hearts.

"What do you want me to do for you?"

Help us to do more, to try harder, to do better, we say to Jesus. Getting closer to the truest desire of our hearts, but not there yet.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Help us to love people more, to love people better?

Very close, but he asks us one more time with such gentleness in his voice: "What do you want me to do for you?"

"My teacher, let me see."

Bartimaeus' words become our words. Let us see how loved we are, let us see how hungry for love others are, how worthy of love they are, how precious and beautiful and wonderful our neighbors are. And let us see that all this love comes from you, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and God the Creator, and the indwelling Holy Spirit. "My teacher, let me see."

Digging down through all the immediate superficial answers, down through fear and ego and all the concerns of this world, we find the desire at the core of our being, which is the desire to give and receive love, the desire to give and receive God. "My teacher, let me see." Let us see that below all the noise and through all the distractions and beyond all the divisions that can isolate us from one another is the Presence that outlasts the stars. That is what we want you to do for us, Jesus. Let us see the Love. And then let us share it.

Bartimaeus occupies a unique niche in the gospel: his is both a healing story and a call story. It is his healing that enables his call and it is his call that is the final ingredient of his healing. "Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way."

This is worth a very close look in our own lives, this relationship between healing and call, how very short a distance there is between the two, how intermingled they are. Often we feel unequipped to answer the call Jesus places in our lives, too broken and mixed up, sinful or apathetic or trapped in a net of responsibilities and habits that seems inescapable, even for gospel work. How could someone as "unhealed" as we are do something radical for Jesus?

But we do not have to wait for healing to answer Jesus' call. Bartimaeus doesn't. The people in the crowd say, "Take heart; get up, he is

calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.” Still blind, relying on no guidance from the people around him to feel his way, reacting with joy and abandon, he throws away his cloak and goes to Jesus.

This is not an insignificant moment. Bartimaeus was homeless, a blind beggar on the street. His cloak was his only asset. It was his only protection from the weather and the cold, the closest thing to shelter he had. He cast it away without a second thought, and still blind, still unhealed, answers the call to make his way to Jesus. We can do the same.

And in perhaps the most remarkable turn in this remarkable story, Bartimaeus is not the only one healed and called in this story. Did you catch who else had a radical conversion? The crowd. They begin with cruelty and exclusion in their hearts, doing everything they can to keep Bartimaeus away from Jesus: “Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’” And this is the pivotal moment. Jesus does not call Bartimaeus directly. *He calls the crowd to call Bartimaeus.* “Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’”

And then the redemption, so easy to skip over if you’re not paying close attention. “And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’” This is the moment of the crowd’s conversion, the crowd’s healing, and the crowd’s call. Jesus’ love is so sneaky and so powerful that it broke open their hardened hearts and they probably didn’t even notice it. They go from trying to keep people away from Jesus to urging them forward. They go from seeing Bartimaeus as an embarrassment and trying to shut him up and keep him hidden, to telling him to take heart and go forward into Jesus’ embrace.

What we learn here is that call is never individual. We hear call in community. Bartimaeus calls for Jesus, Jesus calls the crowd, the crowd calls Bartimaeus, then Jesus calls Bartimaeus to follow him on the way. This entire process of call and response is deeply healing to everyone involved.

Where do we start? We listen, and we call out to Jesus, just as Bartimaeus did: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Because he is always calling and always healing. And it begins with his simple question to us: “What do you want me to do for you?” So we take Bartimaeus’ words to our hearts, “Teacher, let me see.”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

Risen One, we give you thanks for congregations and ministries throughout the world that serve as centers of prayer and action. Empower missionaries, teachers, healers, evangelists, and all who are sent to share your song of joy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, we give you thanks for generous land that produces abundant harvests. Strengthen and protect all soils, from rooftop gardens to prairie farmlands, to patio planters to fertile valleys, and bless all who lovingly tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, we give you thanks for leaders of nations who work to build up the common good. Strengthen efforts of reconciliation among all nations that peace extends in every direction. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing One, we give you thanks for all who labor for the health of others. Comfort and strengthen all who struggle with chronic pain. Send healing and relief to all who are sick; *especially*, Florence, Jason, Richard, Stanley, Heather, Vince, Aileen, Joan, Mae, Kaitlyn, Dorian, Ryan. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Providing One, we give you thanks for all who provide for others. Inspire generosity in your people, so that we carry out the work of making disciples of all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, we give you thanks for the saints who have increased our faith. Give us courage to follow in hope until you gather us all around your table of abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

Amen.

News & Announcements

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Stanley Kubiseskie, Heather Miller, Vince Rabishaw, Aileen Roesler, Joan Schimmens, Mae Schizkoske, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Dorian Verch, Ryan.

Please Pray For Those Who Mourn The Loss Of Loved Ones; especially this day we pray for the family and friends of Delma Cain, that they may find comfort in the promises of our risen Saviour.

RETURN TO FULL HOLY COMMUNION

We have returned to full Holy Communion with Bread and Wine. We will only be using the individual cups. The ushers will direct you forward in the middle. Maintain social distancing. You will receive the bread from Pastor Scott and a cup will be given to you by the assisting minister. After drinking the wine you can return your empty cup to the side wall at the front and return to your seat. Masks must be worn but obviously moved to consume the bread and wine.

RE-OPENING FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE – SINGING AGAIN!

We ask that you follow the Covid guidelines of social distancing of 2 metres and wearing of masks. Masks must be worn while singing.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN AGAIN!

The Sunday School Classes are back in! Just show up. No need to register. Friends are welcome.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY October 31 REFORMATION SUNDAY at

11:30am Service – This year's confirmation class includes 9 confirmands and therefore a special service needed to be organized. They will be confirmed at 11:30 on October 31st. All confirmands must call the office and reserve spots for family. The **rehearsal is at 10am on Saturday October 30th**. There will still be a service at 10am.

OFFICE HOURS

There has been a slight change to the office hours. The church office will now be open on Mondays from 9am until 2pm, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9am until 12 noon. This change is on a trial period to help accommodate those who cannot make it into the office in the mornings.

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm (if it is not on at 12:30, it will be on at 1:30pm) on Sunday mornings a week later.

ZLW NEWS

1. The ZLW are collecting school supplies for children who may not have what they need. Simply bring them in and put them in the foodbank box - HB Pencils, Large glue sticks, Coloured pencil crayons. Pens (blue or black ink). White glue. Highlighter pens. Geometry set. Waxed crayons Washable markers Metric ruler Erasers 3-ringed lined paper. Also, the ZLW are again gathering donations for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please consider giving. The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation led *by* Christian women *for* women and girls all over the world.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

We are finally able to hold coffee hour in the parish hall following our worship services. We invite all members who have had 2 covid vaccinations. This rule has been put in place by the Ontario Government anytime that an event takes place where masks are being removed. We ask that you continue to wear your mask until you are seated at a table. We are looking forward to seeing the smiling faces and hear the chatter of voices as we re-connect.

WEEKLY LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY (LESSONS FOR FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE)

Starting October 26 Pastor Scott will be running a Weekly Lectionary Study and Coffee on Tuesday mornings at 10am. All are welcome to come. Bring friends.

ST JOSEPH FOOD BANK UPDATE

St. Joseph's food bank could use your help! We are currently serving 80 – 100 families per week. Because of COVID restrictions and closures of places during this time, our donations were very low and our shelves pretty empty. Just some ideas for things we give in their food order.

1. Soup
2. Box of cereal
3. Pasta and Sauce
4. Canned Veggies
5. Juice
6. Peanut Butter
7. Canned Fruit
8. Coffee (instant or perked), Tea Bags
9. Sugar

We also make up school packs for children so they will have something to eat while there. This includes drinking boxes, puddings, granola bags (nut free), tins of flakes ham, snacks like Bear Paws. Also we need Ensure bottles or smaller plastic bottles (no glass) or vitamin bottles for dividing detergent and dishwashing liquid into smaller amounts so that everyone who needs these products will get some. Donations can be deposited in the box at the top of the stairs. Thank you for your support. We appreciate even the smallest donation. God Bless! – Debbie Sitkiewicz

CAMP LUTHERLYN 100 X 100 IN 100 CAMPAIGN

As previewed at the AGM, now that the Comfort Station is complete the team at Camp Lutherlyn is turning its attention to the next Legacy Project. Hoffman Beach is a beautiful underused area and an important part of the camp's sustainable future. We are looking for 100 people to contribute

\$100 in the next 100 days! Help us reach our goal. Your donation can be provided in one of four ways. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount. As we have been able to weather the pandemic, this year's fundraising campaign will go to Legacy Funds. We look forward to telling members, partners and friends of Camp Lutherlyn more in the months to come. Thank you for your contributions and the Camp Lutherlyn team looks forward to engaging you on future use and programming at Hoffman. - Robert Tremblay, Secretary, Camp Lutherlyn

JAM JAR FUNDRAISER

Every year the Social Ministry Committee holds the Jam Jar Fundraiser to raise money to help with some cause. This year we have chosen our Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre. We are kicking off the event today, Thanksgiving Sunday. We ask that you pick up a jam jar and fill it with spare change or paper if you like. Please bring it back by All Saints Sunday, November 7th. Lutherlyn is such a beautiful camp. With our help and support to upkeep and help it to improve it will continue to host children and families long into the future. Thank you for your support. Your Social Ministry Committee.

This Week at Zion – October 25 - 31

Mon	7pm	Horticultural AGM
Tues	10am	Lectionary Bible Study
	7p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
		Committee Budget Submission Deadline
Thurs	7pm	Music Healing Vets
Saturday	10am	Confirmation Sunday Rehearsal
Sunday	10am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	11:30am	Confirmation Service