

OCTOBER 21, 2018
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

To follow Jesus is to be a servant of all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to serve
Monday	Isaiah 53:4-12	Suffering servant song
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:1-10	Jesus the great high priest
Wednesday	Numbers 12:1-9	Moses is a servant of the Lord
Thursday	Galatians 5:13-15	Serve on another in love
Friday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Use your gifts to serve others
Saturday	Psalms 91:9-16	God's protection
Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave to all.” **Mark 10:43-44 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and glory, help us to see in Jesus the way of true power and glory, the way of love and service that makes all things new. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord, you fill each cup, you fill each plate. Help us your love to imitate. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Most High God be your dwelling place. May the Lord protect you from evil and guard you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:9-11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*The Lord Now Sends
Us Forth*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you could do anything you wanted, what would you like to do?
- Many cultures have been based on the power to dominate others instead of serving others. Where do you see power over others happening around you? Where do you see service?
- Jesus uses his power as Savior to serve all. How does that influence how you live?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 10:35-45.

In the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire was an honor and shame culture. Power was used to protect those in authority. Therefore, those in power were able to honor others to keep them loyal as well as use their influence to shame and humiliate people to keep them in line. Using power to dominate others was central to society. How is that still true today? Jesus turns all that on its head. He humiliates domination by being the Son of Man willing to die for others. He takes humiliation and gives it honor. The cross of Christ humbles religious, political, economic, and social powers and honors what appears to be weakness. Human skills, huge bank accounts, and social power are only valued as it is used to serve others, not in their abilities to shine a spotlight on themselves and say, “Look at me.” How does the cross of Christ free your life from the bondage of pursuing personal glory? How does it free you to serve others?

Pray: Lord, we are humbled by your willingness to die for us and forgive us our weaknesses. Help us to walk in your way. Amen.

SERVICE



For Jesus and his kingdom, service is a way of life that seeks to honor others and not claim to have power over others. This week think about how your life leads you to honor and value others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Obviously, James and John were not listening to the words of Jesus that spoke of his suffering and death (Mark 10:33-37). Sometimes we only hear what we want to hear without listening to others, including God. A valuable Christian tradition is to sit in silence and listen for God to speak to us the message of the kingdom of God, the message of Christ, the Son of Man. Take time this week to sit in silence and listen for how God wants to speak to you with the voice of the one who “came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org