

OCTOBER 28, 2018  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

*Faith leads us on the path of Jesus.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Joyful return of the exiles
Tuesday	Hebrews 7:23-28	Jesus' priesthood continues forever
Wednesday	2 Kings 6:8-23	God gives back sight to Arameans
Thursday	Mark 8:22-26	Jesus heals at Bethsaida
Friday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Servant, a light to the nations
Saturday	Psalm 126	Harvest of joy
Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. **Mark 10:52 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Jesus, have mercy on me and help me to see you and follow you wherever you lead. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

God our Savior, we thank you for this food, a sign of your daily mercies and the power to heal our lives. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord your God give you sight to see and believe in the one who has come to make you well.



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Be Thou My Vision*



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something you want to do this week?
- How does something that you want to do this week connect with your life of faith?
- Talk about a time that God opened your eyes to something important, perhaps a time to take a risk or to see something new or different around you.

## DEVOTIONS



*Read: Mark 10:46-52.*

A theme in the Gospel of Mark is outsiders becoming insiders and insiders becoming outsiders (Mark 7:24-30 and 10:31). Here the crowds see Jesus and want to ignore the blind man's plea to receive mercy and be healed. Jesus has people from the crowd bring Bartimaeus forward and heals his blindness. The one who was kept back by others is called forward by Jesus. The verse that says, "your faith has made you well" (v. 52) can also be translated as "your faith has saved you." The Greek word used here means to be healed and to be saved. The healing has a spiritual quality to it, filled with the mercy of God. At the depths of human crisis is a spiritual crisis. The healing Bartimaeus receives is more than his physical sight. It now leads Bartimaeus to follow Jesus. Talk about a time you experienced some kind of healing in your life. How did that healing reveal God's presence and mercy?

*Pray: Dear Jesus, have mercy on me and help me to see you and follow you wherever you lead. Amen.*

## SERVICE



When Jesus healed Bartimaeus, those around the blind man wanted to ignore him. Serving others includes the need to acknowledge and be with those who are in need. Think of someone who is hurting and find some way to acknowledge them and be with them.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Faith and seeing are often linked as biblical themes. Jesus comes into our world and our lives so that we can see more clearly God's kingdom of mercy, healing, and salvation. Our human eyes and our eyes of faith can easily be dulled by sin. Sit with family or friends, close your eyes and recall what the other people are wearing. How accurate is your memory of what you saw? What gets in the way of seeing more clearly? Now close your eyes and say the Lord's Prayer. Reflect on how this helps you see God's kingdom of mercy, healing, and salvation.