

Holy Eucharist

October 24, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eio4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 25B

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn

LEVAS 194

Lead me, guide me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

For if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. **Fine**

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
3. blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just

1. through the dark-ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

D.C.

All standing as they are able, the Presider says

Blessed be God: † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Song of Praise

to be sung through twice

Chorus Book 22

This is the day

E_b Eb⁴ Eb Eb⁴ Eb $\frac{A^b}{E^b}$ $\frac{G^m}{B^b}$ B^b7 B^b9

This is the day, this is the day That the Lord has made, that the

Lord has made. We will re-joyce, we will re-joyce And be
 glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the
 Lord has made. We will re-joyce and be glad in it.
 This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Chord symbols: B \flat 6 B \flat 7, B \flat , C \flat m B \flat 7, B \flat , C \flat m B \flat 7, G \flat m B \flat , F \flat m E \flat , E \flat , F \flat m E \flat , E \flat , A \flat , E \flat B \flat , G B, G \flat 7 B \flat , C \flat m, C \flat m B \flat , A \flat , E \flat , E \flat \flat 2 E \flat , E \flat , E \flat \flat 2 E \flat , A \flat E \flat B \flat , B \flat 7, E \flat

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lessons

First Reading

Job 42:1-6,10-17

A Reading from the book of Job.

Job answered the Lord: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; *
God's praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 **Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt God's Name together.**
- 4 **I sought the Lord, and I was answered. ***
God delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon the Lord and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

7 **The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and the Holy One will deliver them.**

8 **Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

20 The Lord will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.

21 **Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.**

22 **The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in God.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Hymnal 209

We walk by faith and not by sight

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Holy Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

All stand as they are able.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even

more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 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?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Presider: Gracious God, through your Son Jesus you call us to come to you, that may see you with our eyes and be filled with the vision of your compassionate reign: Hear us as we cry out to you, saying: Taste and see that God is good; happy are they who trust in the Most High!

Intercessor: You have formed the church to be the community of Jesus our eternal high priest who is holy, blameless, and undefiled and who intercedes for those who approach you. We pray for our bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig, all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our sisters and brothers worshipping at Christ Church, Adrian, Church of the Resurrection, Ecorse; and Nativity Church, Sal Salcedo, in the Dominican Republic. Fill us all with the faith that makes us whole. Taste and see that God is good; **happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Silence is kept.

You have shown us that you are able to do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted, O God: Guide our leaders and all in authority that they may walk in your ways of compassion and peace. Taste and see that God is good; **happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Silence is kept.

You have given us the goodness of the earth to use for our own benefit and have called us to care for creation in your name: Open our hearts and minds to perceive your presence in the world around us that we might care for it as we would care for you. Taste and see that God is good; **happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Silence is kept.

You have revealed yourself as one who travels beside us as friend and guide: Reach out to all in our community who may sit on the side while life passes by, and give unto them such hopeful hearts that they may rush to you and be healed. Taste and see that God is good; **happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Silence is kept.

Listen to our prayers of intercession for the sick, the troubled, and all those for whom we are concerned [especially_____].

Hear our proclamations of praise as we exalt your holy name, and give you thanks [especially for _____].

Draw all people into your eternal presence, enabling those who have died to rejoice before you [remembering especially _____].

Taste and see that God is good; **happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Presider: Almighty God, through your servant Jesus Christ, you have made many righteous, raising him from suffering into glory: Let your resurrection power be present to all in need as you strengthen us for service in your name; through the same Jesus Christ, our savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns in unity and love, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

A minister then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silence is observed.

Minister and People together say

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God + have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

All stand as they are able.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Holy Communion

The Presider then says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Presider, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Presider alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Presider alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Presider during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Presider alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Presider, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.

During consecration, the Presider will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

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The people will come to the Altar rail as they are able. The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

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.**

The people remain standing.

The Presider says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of mercy and grace, because you called all things into being in creation and in covenant, you made Israel your chosen people.

You brought your people out of the pit of slavery and the wilderness of exile.

In Jesus you placed your very life in the midst of ours, taking the worst of us upon his crucified body, and redeeming us through the joy of resurrection.

He is the great high priest, holy, blameless, exalted above the heavens, and made perfect forever, saving all who approach you through him.

And so we rejoice to thank you, joining angels and archangels and the company of heaven in songs of everlasting praise.

Sanctus

S-130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

The musical score is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system ends with a fermata over the word 'might'. The second system begins with a fermata over the word 'might' and continues with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,'. The third system begins with 'God of power and might,' and continues with 'hea - ven and earth are'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Presider continues

Healing God, you call us to cast aside the cloak of our poverty
that we may follow you in faith and hope.

Open our eyes to see your glory.
Speak your word of transformation and truth.

Send your Spirit upon your church, that in this holy meal
we may be turned from despair to joy, and from doubt to wonder.

By that same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup, that they may be for us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, at the table with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."
After they had eaten, he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Generous God, make your church holy, that it may bear your aching world to you,
and may reveal your longing heart to the world.

Give your people, like Bartimaeus, a spring in their step, that they may be
eager in seeking you, clear in asking you, and ready in following you.

When your children yearn for healing yet search in vain for tangible signs,
bring them the comfort of your presence, the encouragement of your word,
and the power of your Spirit.

To all who have known loss, or suffering, or disaster, bring a double portion
of your abundant love, that every eye may see, and every tongue may tell
how great is your almighty hand that draws all things to completion in you,
one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then says

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Presider says

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.
The table of Christ's body and blood is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus.
It is the table of sharing with the poor and lowly of the world,
with whom Jesus identified.
So come to this table you who have much faith
or you who would like more; you who have been here often
and you who have not been here in a long time, or ever before.
Come. It is Christ who invites you to meet him here.
**Amen. As the bread and wine we now eat are transformed,
may we be changed into the likeness of Christ; bone of his
bone, flesh of his flesh, loving and caring for the world.**

The Presider continues

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, those who are not physically present here join us in

offering you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since they cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into their hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us all with your grace, Lord Jesus, and never let us be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

May God give you Grace never to sell yourself short:
Grace to risk something big for something good.
Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous
for anything but truth and too small for anything but Love.

And the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you, and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn
Because He lives

LEVAS 43

1. God sent His Son, — they called Him Je - sus; — He came to love, —
 2. How sweet to hold — a new-born ba - by, — And feel the pride, —
 3. And then one day — I'll cross the riv - er; — I'll fight life's fi -

1. — heal, and for - give; — He lived and died — to buy my
 2. — and joy he gives; — But great - er still — the calm as -
 3. - nal war with pain; — And then as death — gives way to

1. par-don, — An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives. —
 2. sur - ance, — This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause He lives. —
 3. vic - t'ry, — I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know He lives. —

Be - cause He lives — I can face to - mor - row; — Be - cause He lives —

— all fear is gone; — Be - cause I know — He holds the

fu - ture, — And life is worth the liv - ing just be - cause He lives. —

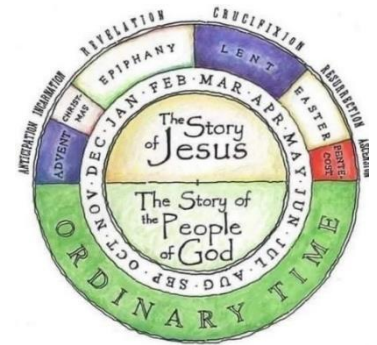
Dismissal

A minister says

And now, my siblings in Christ, I bid you go in peace to love and serve our Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude



CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS TO FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. **The usual "TOP ITEMS" needed are:** baked beans, coffee, canned tomatoes, hamburger helper (or any helper), spaghetti sauce, small cans Campbell’s soup, ketchup, ranch dressing, cereal, 64oz fruit juices, chips, crackers, toilet paper, laundry soap, cleaning products. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA,** please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **Sunday, November 21**. Please leave your donations at the church on that day.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at www.faithinaction1.org, by [Facebook](#), or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action*, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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Our Sunday School program—dormant for a number of years—is in need of materials. Donations will be gratefully accepted! A list of needed items can be found here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/3hRmTDi?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_wMACWbqcf9XGH If you have questions, please contact Kathy O. Thanks to anyone who can help with this!

A reminder that our Social Time is still active every Tuesday evening from 7:00-7:30 on Zoom! The link can be found on the church web site calendar, and also here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86367804283?pwd=eW9jelFKTTdaaUIXRoZxMEc1NlM3Zz09> Meeting ID: 863 6780 4283, Passcode: 894503

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Upcoming Commemorations

- October 24 Hiram Hisanori Kano, 1986
- 25 Tabitha (Dorcas) of Joppa
- 26 Alfred, King, 899
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles
- 29 James Hannington, Bishop, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1885
- 30 Maryam of Qidun, Monastic, 4th century; and,
John Wyclif: Priest and Prophetic Witness, 1384

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Explore the Way of Love: REST

When the scriptures tell us that we should love others as we love ourselves, there is an underlying message that we are allowed to love ourselves. The Way of Love recognizes that one way to love ourselves and to maintain ourselves as useful instruments of God is through the practice of rest.

As Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

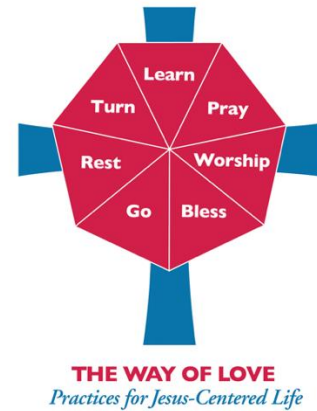
Part of the work of a Christian is to take time to put the work aside and be restored. After God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, God rested. In doing so,

God created a sacred pattern of work and rest, realizing that making dedicated time – to allow our minds to unwind, for our souls to be comforted and healed, for our bodies to be rejuvenated – ensures we can continue in this divine stream.

Rest is a gift and we are allowed to take it.

Rest gives rhythm to our lives; just as it is the end of one endeavor, so it is the beginning of another. There is no greater reward for those whose labor never ceases than for those who do what they can and rest to come back refreshed to do the work another day.

Rest is not only a blessing to us but a blessing to God, as we demonstrate our faith that God is the primary actor, maker of heaven and earth. And as children of God, we are encouraged to trust that all of creation is held in God’s hand.



Are you willing to submit to the practices that will restore your body, mind, and soul? Will you join with others to encourage one another to observe the regular practice of rest?

Learn more about the Way of Love at episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. You can find suggestions on getting started and going deeper with Resting at iam.ec/explore.

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Proper 25B October 24, 2021

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

The Book of Job is a classic story, told with many classic elements: a squeaky-clean protagonist who still falls on hard times, three antagonists, and here, finally a resolution beyond the reader’s wildest dreams. The restoration of Job’s riches comes not only in an unbelievable amount, but through an unbelievable series of events. Job, the hero, does not conquer God to restore his former wealth. Job does not pull off a last-second feat of strength against all odds. No, the story here stands out because Job receives God’s bounty after humbling himself even more before God. Job had been humbled to the point of collapse, and still Job never lashes out to curse the all-powerful God. Instead, Job relies on God’s power of redemption and exercises humble faith beyond the reader’s wildest dreams.

This departure from the classic hero story is not a typical showcase of the human spirit, but of God’s power to restore. This is the story of God, told through the life of Job. Our

faith in God alone can yield riches beyond imagination. Faith in God, not in ourselves, is the ultimate source of restoration. Job's final act before his restoration proves that our faith and humility are powerful: "And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends," the very same friends that tried to convince Job that his sinfulness caused his downfall. Job found faith that God would even restore them, too, and then Job became the most blessed man in all the land.

· In the face of extremely hard times, what do you focus on to keep your faith in God's power strong?

· What silver linings have you found during an extremely hard time in your life?

Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22

The American theologian Jonathan Edwards famously illustrated that experiencing God is not like having the sweetness of honey described to you, but rather like experiencing the taste of honey yourself. Psalm 34 must have been the catalyst that set off that illustration in Edwards' mind. This psalm is packed with action verbs, from what we are to do: bless, glory, proclaim, exalt, seek; to what God does: answer, deliver, save, encompass. Then, in verse 8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Tasting can be a risky action, and there really is no substitute. We can look and sniff all we want, but our taste buds will be the only real measure of sweetness, saltiness, and other informants as to whether a food is acceptable or not. And because what goes into our mouths must be life-giving and not dangerous, the stakes are high. In this psalm, we are encouraged to take the risky leap of faith, to let God in as life-giving sustenance. The Lord is good, bursting with energy and delight, like sweet honey!

· Would you say that you are an evangelical person? What makes it difficult, or risky, to proclaim God's goodness in our everyday language; then, what makes it easy?

· When you fully experience God's presence today, like tasting honey, what are the real rewards that you experience?

Hebrews 7:23-28

This must have been a great task of the first hundred years of Christianity: convince the faithful Jews, of which Jesus of Nazareth was one, that the Messiah had actually already come and gone. So many faithful adherents to the Hebrew Law lived during Jesus' years, unaware that the Messiah walked the earth somewhere far away, or even nearby (or even right in front of them.) Jesus' earliest apostles had a lot of convincing to do.

In this passage, the case is made that Jesus serves as a new priest, and furthermore, eternally. The power of Jesus' death and resurrection to change so much of their faithful practice must have been so difficult to hear, much less to adopt. And for hundreds of years, that remains the Christian task: spread the word that there was a man, born of God, fully divine while fully human, who will forever be your priest, as well as much, much more. The prophecy of Isaiah 53 has been fulfilled, as real as you and I now speak. Jesus came to be the Messiah, anointed as the greatest High Priest, and still is.

- *What do you go to your priest for? What is the primary role that he or she serves?*
- *In what ways does Jesus serve as your priest as well?*

Mark 10:46-52

In this short glance at Jesus’ healing ministry, a blind beggar begins by sitting on the side of the road, then ends up on his feet, following Jesus. Is this the transformation that Jesus offers us too? Maybe so, but the middle part is critical. We have to call upon Jesus’ holy name more than we call upon everyone else that passes by where we sit, because Jesus is the one with the healing power. The blind beggar knew this, and said, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” He would only do this if he had faith that Jesus could provide what he needed the most. And his own faith turned out to be the cure.

- *What healing miracle would you call out to Jesus for, if he walked by where you sat today?*
- *What first inspired you to follow Jesus? What has continued to inspire you to follow Jesus?*

This study was written by Darren Steadman

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Some Notes on Today’s Hymns

“Lead me, guide me”

This hymn is an earnest plea for an intimate walk with God, who is asked to lead, guide, and protect the believer. The deeply personal stanzas emphasize that divine guidance is essential because of our lack of strength, our blindness, and Satan’s temptations. Only God can lead us on the narrow path and through all the complexities and challenges of earthly life. Like many of the psalms, this text pours out in prayer the yearning of the individual Christian, a prayer that reminds us of these words of the psalmist:

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
 make thy way plain before my face.
 For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only
 that makest me dwell in safety.

“This is the day”

Based on Psalms 118:24. “This Is the Day” celebrates God’s mighty acts of redemption (originally referring to the Passover before the Exodus), hailing “the day” as a special day of the Lord. This paraphrase was written by Leslie Norman Garret (b. Matamata, North Island, New Zealand, 1943), was first published in his collection *Scripture in Song* (vol. 1, 1967). Les Garret became a pastor after graduating from the Word of Faith Bible

School. Currently he ministers at the Christian Family Center in Maddington (Perth), Australia. He is also a lecturer at Hebron Bible College and has traveled throughout the world speaking at conventions and churches. Garret promotes the singing of Scripture choruses in books such as *Scripture in Song*.

“Because He lives”

During the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, Bill and Gloria Gaither went through a rather traumatic time. It was a special time of fear and torment for Gloria. With all the craziness then surrounding her family, the thought of bringing another child into the world was taking its toll on her. Then, suddenly and quite unexpectedly, she was filled with a sweet, calming peace. Like an attentive mother bending over her baby, it was as if her heavenly Father saw his Gloria and came to her rescue. Her panic gave way to a calmness and an assurance that only the Lord can give. She was assured that the future would be just fine, left in God’s hands. Both remembered that the power of the blessed Holy Spirit seemed to come to their aid. The power of Christ’s resurrection was reaffirmed in their lives and in their thoughts. To Gloria, it was “life conquering death” as joy once again permeated the fearful circumstances of their lives.

All of this gave rise to one of the most famous Southern Gospel songs of our time, “Because He Lives.” The first verse is a presentation of the gospel of Christ, reminding us of His death, burial, and resurrection. In the second verse we see the life of a new baby and sense the assurance that Christ alone can give. The little one can have a victorious life because Christ lives.

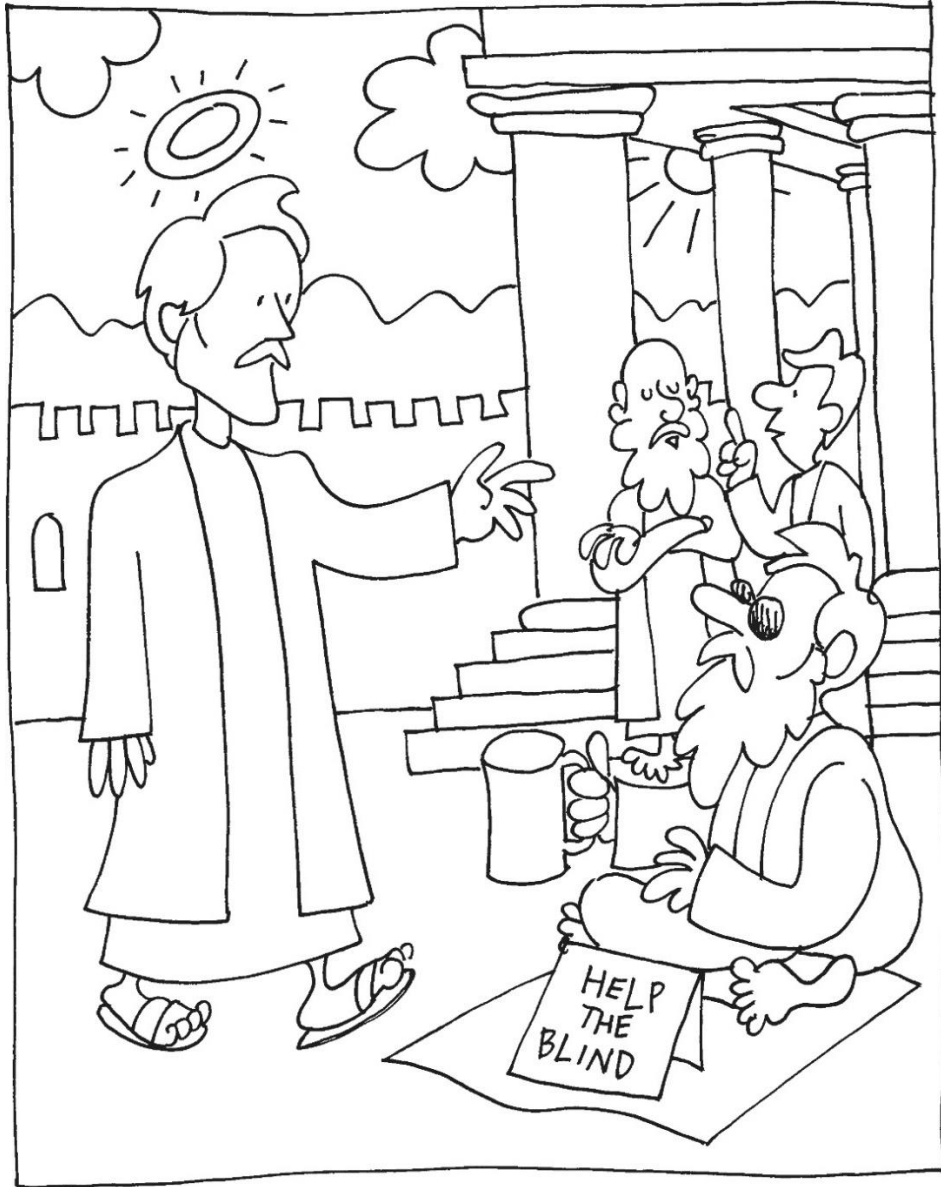
Notes on “Lead me, guide me” from Lead Me, Guide Me | Hymnary.org Accessed 18 October 2021
Notes on “This is the day” from This is the Day | Hymnary.org Accessed 18 October 2021
Notes on “Because He lives” from Because He Lives | Hymnary.org Accessed 18 October 2021

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Prayers of the People from *Planning for rites and rituals: Year B*. New York: Church Publishing, 2017, p.298.
Confession of Sin from *Enriching our worship*, p.19
Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.312-313.

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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