

Bartimaeus, "heard," that Jesus was passing. How he knew anything of Jesus is a mystery. And Jesus stopped walking and called the man to Him. Isn't that curious, Jesus doesn't go to Him, but calls a blind man to Himself. Then Bartimaeus threw off his coat. The young man from two weeks ago, couldn't give up his plenty. Bartimaeus threw off his one possession to prevent it from keeping him from Jesus. Jesus told Bartimaeus to, "Go your way..." but Bartimaeus followed Him. Very different reaction in distinction to our last two weeks.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, You are the Rock of our salvation and the fountain of all truth. We come before You, trusting that You will hear us. Accept our praise and thanks for Your kindness and undeserved Love. For the light of another day and the protection of the past night, we give You thanks. For making it possible for us to delight in Your Law and Gospel, we are thankful.

Grant us, as we come to You in faith and prayer, the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit. By His gracious influence allow us to escape the corruption that is in the world. Take us away from our lust and pride so that we will bear the fruit of true goodness. Help us as we search Your Word, so that we are able to grow in the knowledge of You and of Your will and in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us walk before You according to Your will, steadfast in faith and love. Allow us to abound in spiritual understand and patience, and be strengthened for ever work of kindness and charity.

Bless our homes and defend them against all strife and discord. Grant that our children know and love Jesus as He came to give them abundant life. Give all parents the grace to lead them to the feet of the Lord Jesus by the example of words and life.

We ask for Your mercy for the sick, the sorrowing and the suffering. Support them in their trials and deliver them by Your goodness, that, being made whole in body and spirit, they will always trust in the comfort of Your Fatherly care.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

According to Your promise, the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. Give us diligence in truth and holiness so that we will always do the things of Your will in Your kingdom, and rightly worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-FIVE

Chant Tone



Introit

Out of the depths I cry to you,

—O Lord!*

O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for —mercy!

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not | raised too high;*

I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvel | ous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its —mother;* like a weaned child is my soul with —in me.

O Israel, hope | in the Lord* from this time forth and for | evermore.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy —Spirit; as it was in the be —ginning,* is now, and will be forever. —Amen.

Out of the depths I cry to you,

—O Lord!*

O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for —mercy!

(Antiphon: Psalm 130:1-2;
Psalm 131)

Collect of the Day

O God, the helper of all who call on You, have mercy on us and give us eyes of faith to see Your Son that we may follow Him on the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For He will command His angels con | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

(Psalm 91:11, 103:1)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Almighty and Everlasting God, we pray that You would surround us with Your Spiritual kingdom and a blessed Gospel Ministry. Graciously guard us against divisions and heresies. Give us thankful hearts that we may love Your Holy Word, prize it highly, hear it reverently and improve our lives accordingly. Make us live in accordance with Your Word, meet its demands and through our love for Your Word, allow us to day by day increase in Your good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forever. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE END OF OCTOBER ALWAYS SETS OUR MINDS ON THE REFORMATION, OCTOBER 31, 1517. Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenburg and set off the rediscovery of justification by grace through faith. It isn't as if God ever forgot, but the church at the time of Luther had become more involved in the doctrine of our works. They were teaching that our participation in our own justification is necessary for salvation. Just the opposite is true. Justification is the act of being granted by God the faith to believe that the works of Jesus bring full atonement for the sins of the world. We receive His work vicariously in the water and Word of our Baptism.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Seeing God

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 130:1-2;) Psalm 131

Psalm 130 and Psalm 31 are part of a collection of 15 Psalms called the "Song of Ascents." It is thought that they might have been titled to show that they should be sung together. Psalm 130 is by an unknown author. Verses 1-2, are essentially asking God to hear us. Psalm 131 was written by David. In it he was rejoicing that he was allowed to be in the presence of God, now and forever.

COLLECT

This prayer lines up with the Introit in that we are thankful that we are being allowed to follow Jesus and that our assurance of salvation is in Him.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Jeremiah 31:7-9

God made a contract with the people of Israel. If they kept their part of the contract, they would live in a land flowing with milk and honey. But a contract is a contract. To fulfill a contract one needs attorneys and judges and court chambers etc. Since the contract was broken, God established that He would make a new contract, not one of Law, but one of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There will be an abundance of the knowledge of God. We belong to God because He make us over into His people through the blood of Jesus. He forgives our wickedness and remembers our sins no more.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:1

This is our last week with Psalm 91:11 and 103:1. We are kept in Love by God. Both of these Psalms were written by David to be used in worship.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 7:23-28

We jump into the middle of the discussion of Christ's priestly office. It is essential that Jesus holds the priestly office because He made the perfect sacrifice of His flesh for the sins of the world. This is a function of the priestly office. However, Jesus was born into the royal line, as son of David. The author pointed out the priesthood of Melchizedek, (as is mentioned to us in Psalm 110.) It is useful to read of the "forever" nature of Christ's priesthood because our salvation depends on the eternal nature of Christ. (It is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.)

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 10:46-52

Two weeks ago we listened as the Young man could not set aside his wealth to follow Jesus. Last week we listened as Jesus declared that our riches will not get us into Heaven. This week, still in Mark 10 we are confronted with Bartimaeus. (Which probably means the son of Timaeus, which might even mean that he was the son of a blind man.)