

OCTOBER 20, 2024  
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking   
faith  
home

*Greatness is about serving others.*

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 save
Monday	Isaiah 53:4-12	Suffering servant song
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:1-10	Jesus the great high priest
Wednesday	Matthew 11:1-6	Jesus talks about himself
Thursday	Acts 9:10-19	Conversion of Saul
Friday	Philippians 3:7-11	Being acceptable to God
Saturday	Psalms 91:9-16	God's protection
Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[W]hoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave."*

Mark 10:43b-44 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, help us to serve the needs of others, for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died that we may live. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food and for your sacrifice of love through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with a life of service.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK



*To Be Your Presence*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about how you like to serve others.
- How did Jesus serve others?

DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Mark 10:33-45.

Jesus gives a clear prediction of his suffering, death, and resurrection. James and John totally miss the point of Jesus' description of humiliation, suffering, and death to ask for their own place of glory. The contrast could not be more glaring. The desire for power and recognition that the two disciples ask for is understandable. However, in contrast to a lust for power and personal glory, Jesus presents a view of glory that is all about serving others in love, even to the point of death. Jesus' spirituality, that is, his way of life with God in prayer and action is all about service. His spirituality centers on caring for others. Praying for greatness—as James and John asked of Jesus—is a misguided spirituality that needs to put the cross of Christ at the center. When that happens, greatness no longer looks like power and prestige but loving acts that serve others in the name of God.

*Discuss:* When you think of a life lived close to the heart of Jesus, do you consider suffering and service to others?

*Pray:* **God of power and might, help us to see as Jesus sees that we may live lives filled with acts of loving service for the sake of our crucified Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you sacrifice your comfort for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



There are many in our congregations and communities who serve humbly and faithfully without much recognition. Think or talk about people you know who serve Christ through their words and actions. Choose one or two of those people identified who you would like to honor. Send them a thank you card or give a small gift to them in recognition of their servant work.

*Pray:* **Dear God, give me a humble heart that I may gladly be a servant of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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