

October 24, 2021
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost, B Proper 25
St. Mary's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church
Ramona, CA

Opening Hymn: # 336, Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus
Sung and played by Joshua Charney, Ph.D

Come with us, O blessèd Jesus,
With us evermore to be;
And though leaving now thine altar,
Let us nevermore leave thee
Be thou one with us for ever,
In our life thy love divine
Our own flesh and blood has taken,
And to us thou givest thine.

Come with us, O mighty Saviour,
God from God, and Light from Light;
Thou art God thy glory veiling,
So that we may bear the sight.
Now we go to seek and serve thee,
Through our work as through our prayer;
Grant us light to see and know thee,
In thy people everywhere.

Come with us, O King of glory,
By angelic voices praised;
In our hearts as in thy heaven,
Be enraptured anthems raised.
Let the mighty chorus ever
Sing its glad exultant songs;
Let its hymn be heard for ever -
Peace for which creation longs.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People And Blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

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.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have Mercy on us.
(three times)

The Celebrant then says
 The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect

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.*

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

 “Save, O Lord, your people,
 the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
 those in labor, together;
 a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
 in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people
Thanks be to God

Psalm 126

In convertendo

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God

Mark 10:46-52

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark: Glory to you, O 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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon:

22 Pentecost Cycle B Proper 25 October 24, 2021
Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

Today, I would like to focus upon the Gospel of an Adverb? And what adverb is that you might ask? The adverb, again. And this comes from Bartimaeus, Son of Timaeus' request, "My teacher, let me see again." Bartimaeus, means son of Timaeus, so note how the writer or editor translates the Hebrew meaning of the name.

Let me see again. Again is an important adverb in life because it states the reality of time. Similar things happen in time over and over again. The sun rises again and sets again. Repetition is a fact of life. Repetition in liturgy and worship is called ritual. A ritual is the repeating of similar pattern or action or ceremony for the purpose of teaching and reinforcing identity within a community.

Again is a very important adverb in the New Testament. Why? Resurrection is about living again after we die. Receiving the Holy Spirit is about being born again after having had a first birth into the world.

Repentance is about the continual renewal of the mind to progress in spiritual and moral growth. Repentance is acting again in a different way because one has began to think again in a different and better way.

Bartimaeus wanted to see again, which means that he was not blind from birth but he had lost his sight. He mourned his impairment and loss of sight so much that he caused a public disturbance when Jesus the wonder worker was known to be passing nearby.

The Bartimaeus story is the Gospel story of the entire Jesus Movement. The followers of Jesus were those who could see life again in a different way because of an encounter with the Risen Christ through a spiritual awakening.

The word, "again" carries with it two different qualifications of our experience in time. It carries with it the meanings of sameness with the past, and difference with the past.

Again means that there is a sameness of the human characteristics of what we have done in the past with what we are doing now. But again, also means that every moment and occasion is new and different from the previous moments.

The question of the Jesus Movement and the question of repentance, is how are we different or same in comparison with what has gone before.

Addictions and bad habits represents the sameness with the past. If I drank too much alcohol yesterday, then today, I will continue to drink. So, the negative aspect of the word again, is the negative aspects of repetitions which can build up to become the bad character and bad habits of our lives.

The essence of a person is not to be an addict, a liar, or a sinner; but with the continual repetition of addictive behaviors, lying, and sinning, we can allow our originally blessed personhood to become reduced to our worst repetitive behaviors.

The Jesus Movement, complimented the repentance movement of John the Baptist, by the evidence of the higher power of the Holy Spirit to interdict spiritual blindness with new sight, to interdict addiction and bad habits with the power and freedom to make new and different choices. To receive power to begin to build new habits and character based upon repetitions of good behaviors.

Let us embrace the positive side of the adverb "again," today. Let us do things again, differently, progressing to surpass ourselves in excellence.

Many people do not come to the rituals of the church because they are bored by what they regard as vain repetitions. Many people need their rituals to be entertainment so that they are not bored. Some people think that they need drums and aspects of popular culture to make their church rituals relevant and interesting to them.

I believe to live the born again life, to see again in life, requires that we live in deliberate and intentional attentiveness. Too many people are bored because in pride, they believe that they have exhausted the relevance of biblical knowledge and the traditions of the church. People can be bored because they have become lazy in habits of their mental and spiritual practice.

Rather than be bored with what we think we know about Jesus, God and the church, let us be restless today like Bartimaeus. Let us be uncomfortable with our state of blindness and cry out for more spiritual sight.

And like the prayerful song we pray today: Open my eyes that I may see, visions of truth thou hast for me, open my eye, illumine me, Spirit Divine. Amen.

The Nicene Creed (page 357)

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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:

Let us confess our sins against God and our Neighbor
Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

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.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

Played and sung by Rob and Deb Lewallen

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Doxology: Sung by Rob and Deb Lewallen

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy Eucharist, Prayer A, p. 361, BCP

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father
Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious
resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was
sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death,

and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sung by Rob and Deborah Lewallen

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:(led by Rob and Deborah Lewallen)

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Led by Rob and Deb Lewallen

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.
The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: # 439, What Wondrous Love Is This
Played and sung by Rob and Deb Lewallen

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul!

2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,

and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

Post Communion Prayer (BCP, page 365)

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction:

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Played by Stanley V. Smith, Jr. on the Hammer Dulcimer

Lord, I want to be a Christian
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian
In my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I wanna to be more loving
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I wanna be, wanna be more loving in my heart

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I wanna be like Jesus, in my heart.