



The Anglican Parish of St John the Evangelist, Adelaide.

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional sacred country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide plains. We respect their elders, customs and traditions. We commit to listen humbly, and to respond with justice to first-nations people.

The twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost - 24-10-2021

Throughout the service, we are all invited to say or sing the parts in **bold print**.

Covid-19 restrictions require all of us physically present today to wear face-masks, and to keep at least 1.5 metres apart except from people in our own households.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Processional Hymn

(TIS 369 – tune 388)

Hail the day that sees him rise, *alleluia!*
to his throne above the skies; *alleluia!*
Christ, awhile to mortals given, *alleluia!*
enters now the highest heaven *alleluia!*

² There for him high triumph waits;
lift your heads, eternal gates!
Wide unfold the radiant scene,
let the King of glory in!

³ Heaven now its Lord receives,
yet he loves the earth he leaves,
though returning to his throne
still calls humankind his own.

⁴ See! he lifts his hands above;
see! he shows his prints of love;
hark! his gracious lips bestow
blessings on his church below.

⁵ Still for us he intercedes,
his prevailing death he pleads;
near himself prepares our place,
he the first fruits of our race.

⁶ There we shall with you remain,
partners of your endless reign;
there your face unclouded view,
find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

Welcome

Sentence – we say together

**The redeemed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;
and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.**

Isaiah 51.11

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

باد.
جماعت: و نیز با تو باد

We sit or kneel for the Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.**

ای خدای قادر مطلق
که در نظر تو همه دلها آشکار و تمامی آرزوها معلوم است و از تو هیچ سری مخفی
نیست.
افکار ما را با الهام روح قدوس خود طاهر بساز،
تا ما با اخلاص تو را محبت کنیم،
و به احترام شایسته نام مقدس ترا تمجید نماییم.
بوسیله خداوند ما عیسی مسیح!

آمین

The Kyries and Invitation to Confession

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

خداوند رحم فرما.
مسیحا رحم فرما.
خداوند رحم فرما.

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to the Lord's Table.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry
for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

خدای رحیم و بخشنده،
پدر خداوند ما عیسی مسیح،
اعتراف می‌کنیم که در پندار، گفتار و کردار بر خلاف رضای تو گناه ورزیده ایم،
تو را به تمامی دل محبت ننموده ایم
و نه همسایه خود را چون نفس خویش،
بر حسب رحمت عظیم خود
بر ما رحم فرما
و ما را از گناهانمان پاک گردان
ما را کمک کن تا بر تقصیرات خود غلبه بیابیم،
و ما را در آنچه باید بشویم، هدایت فرما،
تا اعمالمان عادلانه گردد،
دوستداران رحمت شویم،
و با تو، ای خداوند، با فروتنی گام برداریم

آمین.

The Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him
in faith:
✠ pardon you
and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

خدای قادر مطلق که توبه کاران واقعی را می بخشد،
بر شما رحم فرماید و گناهان شما را ببخشد،
و شما را از قید هر گناهی آزاد کرده،
و شما را در هر نیکویی تائید و تقویت نماید،
و در حیات جاودانی نگاهدارد؛
به وسیله خداوند ما عیسی مسیح.

آمین!

We stand to sing the Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
✠ with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen****

خدا را در اعلیٰ علیین جلال،
و قوم او را بر زمین سلامت باد.
ای خداوند قادر مطلق و پدر،
تو را پرستش مینماییم،
و تو را سپاس می‌گوئیم،
تو را بجهت جلالت ستایش می‌کنیم.
ای خداوند عیسی مسیح، پسر یگانه پدر،
خداوند خدا، بره خدا،
ای که گناه جهان را بر میداری:
بر ما ترحم فرما.
ای که بر دست راست پدر نشسته ای:
دعای ما را بپذیر.
زیرا تو تنها قدوسی،
تو تنها خداوندی،
تو تنها ای عیسی مسیح،
با روح القدس،
در جلال خدای پدر متعال هستی.
آمین

We say together the Prayer of the Day

**O God,
you give light to the blind and comfort to the sorrowing,
and in your Son you have given us a High Priest
who has offered the true sacrifice for us
and yet can sympathise with us in our weakness:
hear the cry of your people
and lead us home to our true country,
where with your Son and the Holy Spirit
you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

Children's time

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Book of Job

(42.1-6, 10-17)

¹ Job answered the LORD: ² 'I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³ "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.

⁴ "Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me."

⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.'

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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. ¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ After this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations.

¹⁷ And Job died, old and full of days.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34.1-8

- *we say the Psalm in alternate verses.*

¹ I will bless the LORD continually:

his praise shall be always in my mouth.

² **Let my soul boast of the LORD:**

the humble shall hear it and rejoice.

³ O praise the LORD with me:

let us exalt his name together.

⁴ **For I sought the LORD's help and he answered:**

and he freed me from all my fears.

⁵ Look towards him and be bright with joy:

your faces shall not be ashamed.

⁶ **Here is a wretch who cried, and the LORD heard me:**

and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps round those who fear him:

and delivers them in their need.

⁸ **O taste and see that the LORD is good:**

happy are they that hide in him!

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

(4.12-16)

¹² This Jesus became a priest with an oath, because of the one who said to him,

'The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest for ever" '—

²² accordingly Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³ Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever.

²⁵ Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for

them.

²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 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 for ever.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel [gradual] Hymn

(TiS 447 verses 1 and 2)

**Lord, your almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

**Saviour, who came to give
those who in darkness live
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light.**

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you!

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

(10.46-52)

⁴⁶ ... As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'

⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'

⁴⁹ 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.'

⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ 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.'

⁵² Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.'

Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

THE NICENE CREED

Let us affirm the faith of the Church in 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 worshipped 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.

ما ایمان داریم به یک خدای واحد،
پدر قادر مطلق،
خالق آسمان و زمین
و همه چیزهای دیدنی و نادیدنی.
ما ایمان داریم به یک خداوند، عیسی مسیح،
پسر یگانه خدا،
مولود جاودانی از پدر،
نور از نور، خدای حقیقی از خدای حقیقی،
که مولود است و مخلوق نی،
و او را با پدر یک ذات است.
بوسیله او همه چیز وجود یافت.
او به خاطر ما آدمیان و برای نجات ما از آسمان نزول کرد،
و به قدرت روح القدس از مریم باکره متولد شده،
بشر گردید.
و به خاطر ما، در حکومت پنطیوس پیلطس مصلوب شد،
رنج کشیده، مرد و مدفون گشت.
در روز سوم از مردگان برخاسته،
کتاب مقدسه را به انجام رسانید.
و به آسمان صعود نموده،
به دست راست پدر نشسته است.
بار دیگر با جلال می آید،
تا زندگان و مردگان را داوری نماید؛
و ملکوت او را انتها نخواهد بود.
ما ایمان داریم به روح القدس،
خداوند و بخشنده حیات،
که از پدر و پسر صادر می شود.
و با پدر و پسر او را عبادت و تمجید می باید کرد.
او بوسیله انبیا تکلم کرده است.
ما ایمان داریم به کلیسا واحد جامع مقدس رسولان،
و به یک تعمید برای آمرزش گناهان معتقدیم.
و قیامت مردگان و حیات عالم آینده را انتظار می کشیم.

آمین.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

The response to each prayer is announced, but is often

Loving God, in your kindness, **hear our prayer.**

Our prayer list includes caregivers and those they support, and those who mourn.

Heather & Nick with Graeme & Anu, Alastair & Philipa and Deborah, all mourning Stuart's death, Farshad with Maryam, Ashkan & Atrina, Donald, Jane, Wendy, Zelma, John, Anna, Milton, Ann, Rachel, Lynette, Martyn, Julie, Fatimeh, Jo, Norman, Thomas, Andrew, Mark, Brittany, Clare, Rosemary, Dorothy, Chris, Marlene, Faith, David, Clive, Helen, Doug, Tony, Lorraine, Deb, Duncan, Alan & Sue, Keith & Judith, Bill & Alexis, Sam, Jill, Mary, Fiona, Moshica, Gerry.

Prayers conclude

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

While observing physical distancing, we share signs of God's Peace

The Offertory Hymn

(TiS 584 tune i)

**¹ Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you would my Saviour be,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**² Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**³ Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind —
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yes, all I need, in you to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**⁴ Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**⁵ Just as I am — your love unknown
has broken every barrier down —
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**⁶ Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

The altar is prepared; the priest says the prayer over the gifts of the people

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these and all your good gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

سرپرست: خداوند با شما باد

جماعت: و همچنین با شما باد

سرپرست: دلهای خود را به سوی او برافرازید.

جماعت: به سوی خداوند بر می افرازیم.

سرپرست: خداوند خدای خود را شکر گوئیم.

جماعت: شکر و سپاس او را سزاست

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Hosanna in the highest.

قدوس، قدوس، قدوس خداوند،
خدای قوت و عظمت،
آسمان و زمین از جلال تو مملو است.
هوشیعاتنا، در اعلیٰ علیین.

✘ **Blessed is he/the one who comes
in the Name of the Lord**

مبارک است آنکه به نام خداوند می‌آید. هوشیعاتنا، در اعلیٰ علیین.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

مسیح جان داد؛
مسیح برخاسته است؛
مسیح باز خواهد گشت.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
we remember his life of obedience to you,
his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation,
and his promise to be with us for ever.
With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

✘ Renew us by your Holy Spirit; unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father in songs of
never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

برکت و حرمت، جلال و قدرت
از آن تو باد از حال تا به ابد. آمین.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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 forever. Amen**

ای پدر ما که در آسمانی،
نام تو مقدس باد،
ملکوت تو بیاید،
اراده تو چنانکه در آسمان است،
بر زمین نیز کرده شود.
نان کفاف ما را امروز به ما بده.
گناهان ما را ببخش،
چنانکه ما نیز مقصرین خود را می بخشیم،
ما را در آزمایش میاور،
بلکه از شریر رهایی ده.
زیرا که ملکوت و قدرت و جلال
تا ابد الابد از آن تو است.
آمین!

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.**

ای عیسی، پره خدا،
بر ما رحم فرما.
ای عیسی، حامل گناهان ما،
بر ما رحم فرما.
ای عیسی، رهاکننده جهان،
به ما صلح و سلامتی عطا فرما.

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for you, the people of God, come, all is prepared.

Visitors from all traditions are invited to participate as you prefer – either by coming forward to receive communion, or coming forward for a blessing – indicated by hands folded rather than open.

Gluten free wafers are available for any who need them; please ask for one

During communion, the ministry of anointing and prayer for healing is offered in the baptistery at the church entrance. You can receive this ministry either for yourself or on behalf of anyone in your prayers.

Communion is given at the head of the aisle in the form of intincted bread with the words

The body and blood of Christ keep you and yours in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We pray together this prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Amen.

ای پدر همگان،
تو را حمد و سپاس می گوئیم،
زیرا هنگامی که هنوز دور بودیم، ما را در پسر خود ملاقات کردی و به خانه باز آوردی.
او با مرگ و زندگی خود، محبت تو را اعلام کرده، ما را فیض بخشید،
و دروازه جلال را برای ما گشود.
آمین .

There may be notices shared at this time.

The Thanksgiving Hymn

(TiS 520 tune 611 verses 1, 3 & 5)

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
you alone our strong defender,
lifting up your people's head:
alleluia, alleluia,
Jesus, true and living bread.**

**Though the lowliest form now veils you
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there your angels hail you,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem;
alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.**

**Great High Priest of our profession
through the veil you entered in;
by your mighty intercession
grace and mercy you can win:
alleluia, alleluia,
only sacrifice for sin**

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, ✠ the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always. Amen.

سلامتی خدا،
که فوق از تمامی عقل است،
دلها و ذهنهای شما را در معرفت و محبت خدا
و پسر او خداوند ما عیسی مسیح نگاهدارد.
و برکت خدای قادر مطلق،
پدر، پسر و روح القدس با شما باد،
و در شما بماند از حال تا به ابد.
آمین

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen

به سلامت بروید و خداوند را محبت و خدمت کنید.
در نام مسیح. آمین.

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Covid restrictions prevent the use of the prayer books and hymn books we have in the church. So liturgy and hymns from them are reproduced in this single-use booklet, but never in greater numbers than we have copies of the books.

'What Do We See?'

Faith and hope will not be silenced in the face of need, whether our own or others. When we risk speaking and acting with persistence for the sake of mercy, we can take heart. We who experience God's power for good may spring up and shout out as we follow Christ on the way.

Job 42:1–6, 10–17 Job's suffering remains an unanswered mystery, but Job moves forward. Twice Job quotes God's words, and twice Job's reply makes clear that he has gone to the heart of their meaning. It is not that Job did not possess faith before, as the opening verse of this book makes clear. Job's encounter with God enables his faith to move from the realm of hearsay to eyewitness, and Job moves forward in faith.

Psalms 34:1–8, (19–22) This song of blessing and praise does not come from a life sheltered and safe. God does not guarantee a life without challenge, but God is present in the midst of trials. It takes faith to see that the righteous experience affliction and that God brings deliverance and redemption. It takes faith to bless God at all times. The psalmist, like Job, has been transformed by an encounter with God, and so sees with new eyes of faith.

Hebrews 7:23–28 asserts Christ's power to save. We raise our prayers and praise because of the affirmation that Christ intercedes for us.

Mark 10:46–52 marks a critical juncture in Mark. This is the last story before the account of Jesus' return to Jerusalem. The setting of this encounter is Jericho, in the valley of the Jordan River. Jesus' ministry began in that region with the call to repentance (1:15) and the call to follow (1:17). Now Jesus comes to heal a blind one who will come to see and follow.

Described as a "blind beggar," Bartimaeus plays an active role in this scene. He persists even as the crowd attempts to silence him. In fact, Bartimaeus turns up the volume. When Jesus calls to him, Bartimaeus responds vigorously. He throws off his beggar's cloak. He springs up. When asked, he articulates his greatest need. Jesus responds in distinctive ways. In a gospel best known for action and movement, Jesus stands still when he hears Bartimaeus' cries. He allows himself to be distracted from the journey for the sake of another.

In contrast to those who wanted to keep Bartimaeus quiet and on the margins, Jesus calls out to him, and asks the very same question asked of James and John in v. 36: "*What do you want me to do for you?*"

There is a directness to this encounter. When Jesus declares Bartimaeus healed, the reciprocity continues. No longer bound by the defines of society, Bartimaeus finds his true identity in Christ and follows "on the way." Jesus' imminent entry into Jerusalem is hinted in Bartimaeus's address of Jesus as "Son of David." This is the first occurrence of this Messianic title in Mark. Mark later records the crowd at Jesus' entry to Jerusalem blessing the coming kingdom of David (11:10). The Davidic association stirs hopes of God's Messiah who would usher in a restored dynasty. Up to this point, Mark reports that Jesus insisted on secrecy when it came to expressing messianic beliefs. That now changes. Bartimaeus' cries of "Son of David" are not silenced, and Jesus enacts what it means to be Son of David – one who heals and restores.

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This week's scripture readings brim with good news: fortunes are restored; Jesus has the power to save; sight is restored. Yet just below the surface lurk some difficult questions: Does the arrival of a new child make up for losing one years before? Is Jesus' power to save, his sacrifice, in his death, or his resurrection, or in his modelling of servant leadership day after day? What does a story of sight restored say to those who have faith but find themselves in need of healing that does not come, if at all? Our questions do not always receive an answer, but they do lead us to deeper meaning and more questions. We can be assured that God is present with us through all manner of difficulty.