



# Celebrate

Sunday, October 20, 2024  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

*Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.*

## Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 53:4-12

*This reading is from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called "servant songs." Christians are probably most familiar with this servant song. In light of Christian faith, the servant's healing ministry and redemptive suffering are understood to be fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.*

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our  
transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that  
made us whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its  
shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken  
away.  
Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the  
living,  
stricken for the transgression of my  
people.

<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush  
him with pain.

When you make his life an offering  
for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall  
prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall  
prosper.

<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see  
light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his  
knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall  
make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

*continued*

## Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, we give thanks for all servant leaders of the church. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons (*local leaders may be named*) with humble wisdom and ground them in your love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creative One, we give thanks for the delicate balance of the natural world. Kindle in us a spirit of caring strength in the preservation of habitats, food availability, and centers of refuge, that all wildlife may thrive. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Empowering One, fill the leaders of governments with a spirit of service that prioritizes those on the margins due to job loss, underemployment, unsafe working conditions, and immigration status. May economic equity be achieved for all people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Restoring One, send your angels to watch over, rescue, and protect those who are injured or ill. Nurse those who suffer hardship, disease, injury, or difficulty with your comfort and peace (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Abiding One, you call pastors to shepherd the congregation toward faithful living as servants and followers of Jesus. Inspire all ordained ministers and seminarians (*local clergy or seminarians may be named*) to ministry that challenges, engages, and comforts those in their care. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Saving One, we give thanks for the disciples James and John and all saints who have faithfully served you. We rejoice in a promised place at the feast of victory that we receive by your grace alone. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 37:23-40. **Tuesday** 1 Samuel 10:17-25. **Wednesday** (commemoration of James of Jerusalem, martyr, c. 62) John 13:1-17. **Thursday** Psalm 126. **Friday** Hebrews 7:11-22. **Saturday** (commemoration of Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters) Mark 8:22-26. **Reformation Sunday** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36, *OR* **23rd Sunday after Pentecost** Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52.

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