

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Oct. 27, 2024

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the International Children's Bible

The 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.**

Track 1 Old Testament: Job 42:1-6, 10-17

42 Then Job answered the Lord:

2 "I know that you can do all things.

No plan of yours can be ruined.

3 You asked, 'Who is this that made my purpose unclear by saying things that are not true?'

Surely I talked about things I did not understand.

I spoke of things too wonderful for me to know.

4 You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak.

I will ask you questions.

And you must answer me.'

5 My ears had heard of you before.

But now my eyes have seen you.

6 So now I hate myself.

I will change my heart and life and sit in the dust and ashes."

10 After Job had prayed for his friends, God gave him success again. God gave Job twice as much as he had owned before. 11 Job's brothers and sisters came to his house.

Everyone who had known him before came to his house. And they all ate with him there.

They comforted Job and spoke kindly to him. They made him feel better about the trouble the Lord had brought on him. And each one gave Job a piece of silver and a gold ring.

12 The Lord blessed the last part of Job's life even more than the first part. Job had 14,000

sheep and 6,000 camels. He had 1,000 pairs of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. 13 Job also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 He named the first daughter Jemimah. The second daughter he named Keziah. And his third daughter he named Keren-Happuch. 15 There were no other women in all the land as beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father Job gave them land to own along with their brothers. 16 After this, Job lived 140 years. He lived to see his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. 17 Then Job died. He was old and had lived many years.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 1 Psalm: Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, *

and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *

and none will be punished who trust in him.

Track 2 Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:7-9

7 This is what the Lord says:

“Be happy and sing for the people of Jacob.

Shout for Israel, the greatest of the nations.

Sing your praises and shout this:

‘Lord, save your people!

Save those who are left alive from the nation of Israel!’

8 Look, I will bring Israel from the country in the north.

I will gather them from the faraway places on earth.

Some of the people are blind and crippled.

Some of the women will be pregnant and ready to give birth.

A great many people will come back.

9 Those people will be crying as they come back.

But they will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead those people by streams of water.

I will lead them on an even road where they will not stumble.

This is because I am Israel’s father.

And Israel is my firstborn son.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 126

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.

Epistle: Hebrews 7:23-28

23 Also, when one of the other priests died, he could not continue being a priest. So there were many priests. 24 But Jesus lives forever. He will never stop serving as priest. 25 So he is always able to save those who come to God through him. He can do this, because he always lives, ready to help those who come before God.

26 So Jesus is the kind of high priest that we need. He is holy; he has no sin in him. He is pure and not influenced by sinners. And he is raised above the heavens. 27 He is not like the other priests. They had to offer sacrifices every day, first for their own sins, and then for the sins of the people. But Christ does not need to do that. He offered his sacrifice only once and for all time. Christ offered himself! 28 The law chooses high priests who are men with all their weaknesses. But the word of God's oath came later than the law. It made God's Son to be the high priest. And that Son has been made perfect forever.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

46 Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. 47 He heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man cried out,

“Jesus, Son of David, please help me!”

48 Many people scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, “Son of David, please help me!”

49 Jesus stopped and said, “Tell the man to come here.”

So they called the blind man. They said, “Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you.”

50 The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

51 Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man answered, “Teacher, I want to see again.”

52 Jesus said, “Go. You are healed because you believed.” At once the man was able to see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.

The Gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer On October 30 we celebrate the life of John Wyclif, Priest and Prophetic Witness. Read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses.

John Wyclif is remembered as a forerunner of the Protestant Reformation.

Born in Yorkshire, England, around 1330, Wyclif was educated at Oxford. Although he served as a parish priest, he spent most of his vocation teaching theology and philosophy at Oxford and was celebrated for his academic achievements.

In 1374, Wyclif defended the position of the Crown during a dispute with the papacy over finances. Because of this newfound notoriety, Wyclif gathered around him a group of powerful patrons who were able to provide a reasonable level of safe haven and security for him. This meant that Wyclif could begin to test some of his theological views that were at odds with and critical of the positions of the medieval church. Without the support of such

powerful allies, Wyclif, a priest and university professor, could never have withstood the discipline that would have come his way.

A number of Wyclif's radical ideas got worked out in the centuries that followed, as the movement toward reformation gained momentum. Wyclif believed that believers could have a direct, unmediated relationship with God, not requiring the intervention of the Church or its priesthood. He held that a national Church could be fully and completely the Church and not have to tolerate the interference and abuse of international, i.e., papal, authority. Believing that the Scriptures should be available to all who could read them, and not mediated through the instruction of the Church, Wyclif translated the Vulgate—the Latin edition of the Bible—into English.

The tables turned dramatically when Wyclif questioned the eucharistic doctrine of transubstantiation. He believed that the underlying philosophy was problematic and that the popular piety flowing from it led inevitably to superstitious behaviors. He was condemned for his eucharistic views in 1381. Although Wyclif had nothing to do with inciting the Peasants' Revolt of the same year, he was an easy target for blame. He retired, left Oxford, and died three years later in Leicestershire.

Later reformers John Hus (July 6) and Martin Luther (February 18) acknowledged their debt to Wyclif.

Let us pray: O God, your justice continually challenges your Church to live according to its calling: Grant us, who now remember the work of John Wyclif, contrition for the wounds which our sins inflict on your Church and such love for Christ that we may seek to heal the divisions which afflict his Body; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**