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*Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2024*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: I will bless the Lord at all times.
**People: Praise shall continually be in my mouth.**
Pastor: Let my soul make its boast in the Lord.
**People: Let the humble hear and be glad**.

Pastor: Let us hear the good news, and be warmed by it.
**People: Let us taste and see that God is good together.**
Pastor: Come, magnify the Lord with me, for God is humble to be with us.
**People: Let us exalt the name of God together.**

**Worship Music Red Letters**

OPENING PRAYER

Great and glorious God, through Jesus our Savior we give you praise and consecrate ourselves to follow you. As we worship you and celebrate your goodness, open our eyes so that we may see — open the eyes of our mind to learning and understanding; open the eyes of our heart, to love and compassion; open the eyes of our soul, to see our spiritual selves during our time of worship. We pray in Jesus’ Name. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior #351

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 34: 11-14 NIV

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM Hallelujah For the Cross

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

We have been blessed with many gifts and opportunities; there is a divine invitation and responsibility to share what we have; Christ asks us to take initiative and bless the stranded, unblessed people in the world with a portion of our blessing.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, we offer these gifts to you. May they not only demonstrate our caring for the last and least, but be part of our larger dream for a world transformed, where all are free from oppression and feel your abundant love. May our gifts demonstrate our willingness to take up Jesus’ cross and follow him. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 10:32 52 NIV

HYMN OF PREPARATION Open My Eyes, That I May See #454

SERMON I Want to See Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN Be Thou My Vision #451

BENEDICTION

May God the Father prepare your journey, Jesus the Son guide your footsteps,

The Spirit of Life strengthen your body, The Three in One watch over you, on every road that you may follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Amber – breast cancer Nash – sickle cell anemia (home)

Margaret Bollinger – chemo therapy Arlene Oner – hip replacement

Family of Glen Bubbenmoyer People in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine

Family of Ron Dentzer Police officers

Donna – cancer treatable Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Mike Fassnacht – cancer surgery Dr. Bill Schlorff – stage 3 throat cancer

Daniel Heiser – hospice care Sharon - brain cancer

Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer Shooting victims in Kansas City

Cindy Haines – skilled care Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Mary Jenks – Cancer surgery Rosemary Steffy - Covid

Kellen – reaction to lymphoma treatment Tom Steffy – doctor appointments

Employees of Martin’s in Ephrata Roy Weik – Health Center Cornwall

Faye Miller - immunotherapy Alex Wenger- leukemia treatments

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING February 18th $7,029**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $9,800**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $19,768**

**BUDGET YTD +$9968 Attendance – 33 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

The Chosen – video series – 1030 Sunday after church

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Choir Practice – Thursdays 1200 PM

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Council Meeting – Monday March 4 6PM

Girl Scout Sunday – March 10, 2024

Game Day – Thursday March 14th 130-330 PM

Blessings of Hope – Saturday March 23rd 1030-1100

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday March 30th 2PM Schoeneck Park

Pastor Lyle on mission trip next week returning Saturday, March 2nd

Call Rev. Mike Roney 717-445-0870 for pastoral care

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 10: 35-45

Monday – Mark 10: 46-52 Thursday – Mark 11: 27-33

Tuesday – Mark 11: 12-19 Friday – Mark 12: 1-12

Wednesday – Mark 11: 20-25 Saturday – Psalm 118: 21-26

Sermon Summary

I Want to See

Six blind men were brought close enough to touch an elephant. They all touched the animal in different place, and identified it based on where they touched it. Being blind, they could not see the entire creature. Reading scripture too quickly can cause us to miss some of its meaning. Our readings through Mark might fall into that category. We may well have missed the turn which shared both Jesus’ identity and his mission. In Mark, this happens between 8:22-10:52. It is framed by two healings of blind men, the only such healings in Mark, and within that frame is a threefold prediction of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

It took Jesus two touches to restore sight to the blind man in Bethsaida. After that, Jesus travels to Caesarea Philippi where Peter identifies him as the Messiah. A story of sight is followed by a story of insight; physical vision by spiritual vision.

In the next two chapters, we hear stories of revelation about Jesus as Messiah, followed by three predictions of his death and resurrection. The disciples don’t see the whole picture. It is as if they were blind. Peter rebukes Jesus; the disciples argue about who is the greatest; and James and John ask for seats of honor. Jesus then declares that he has come to serve, not to be served. He said he would give his life as a ransom for many.

At the end of this narrative of mission declaration and revelation of what is ahead, Jesus restores the sight of Bartimaeus. He heard Jesus was close by and shouted so loudly that Jesus called to him, asking “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus replied, “I want to see.” When his sight was restored, he followed Jesus. May we also have eyes that see, and the will to follow Jesus. Amen.

Sermon Quiz

1. Mark climaxes with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Mark describes \_\_\_ healings of blind men and \_\_\_\_\_ predictions of Jesus’ death.
3. Peter identifies Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but later \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about Elijah, divorce and riches verify Jesus.
5. Moments of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and insight are followed by darkness and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Jesus teaches the disciples about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. James and John are given a lesson in Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ style of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_, and to give his life a ransom for \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Bartimaeus \_\_\_\_\_\_ so loudly that he gets Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Mark is talking about more than one kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_ and one kind of \_\_\_\_.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Mark is very much focused on telling who Jesus is, and why he has come.
2. When Jesus asks who the disciples think he is, Peter answer, “You are the Christ.”
3. This confession is a turning point in the story of Jesus.
4. Jesus’s message turns toward the cross.
5. Jesus’ way will defy people’s expectations.
6. He will save sinners by becoming a servant.
7. Peter rebuked Jesus because he was fixed on human things and not on the divine.
8. Jesus instructed the crowd on how to be his disciples.
9. Those who want to save their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives will save them.
10. There is a cost to follow Jesus, but it is worth it.