

October 2021
Ordinary Time
Proper 24



The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



Welcome

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Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This week our theme is Serving with Humility Instead of Seeking Greatness.

It is easy to listen to the voices in the world that tell us that we need to become someone important, powerful and great. As Christians, we might even believe that since we are God's friends that we are first in line for greatness.

But in today's lesson, we meet the servant who is sent by God, who does not meet any of the world's leadership qualities. The servant does not seek out power and greatness. Instead, the servant has been sent to offer sacrificial service. He suffers for the sake of others. He takes on the sin of others, and is killed in their place. Through his suffering, our sins are erased and we are made right with God.

Jesus proclaims himself as one who has come to serve, and not to be served. He instructed his disciples not to follow the leadership example of the world around them. Instead, they should be different, and follow his example of humble, sacrificial service. Jesus gave his life so that we could live and he invites us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him.

It can be difficult to turn away from the limelight and power, but once we remember that we are not seeking personal glory, but do all things in obedience to God and for God's honour and glory, then we will be ready to follow Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
The Sunday School Team



Collect & Readings

Memory Verses:

St. Mark 10: 43-44

“But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

The First Lesson (Isaiah 53:4-12)

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

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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.



This passage forms one of what are called the Servant Songs of Isaiah. The servant is bruised and unfairly treated on behalf of others. He is unjustly condemned and is killed, but God raised him to glory. His death becomes the source of salvation for us.

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been unfairly punished?
How did you feel, what did you do?

How did the servant bear his unjust punishment?

The servant gave up his rights to save others, could we ever do the same?

ACTIVITY:

(Press and hold the ctrl button and click the link at the same time)

Isaiah's Prophecy about Jesus Colouring Pages are available at:

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Isaiah-Prophecy-about-Jesus-Colouring-Pages-Proper-24.pdf>

BIBLE STUDY:

This lesson is considered one of the Servant Songs of Isaiah. It is a poem, and like all poems, it can be interpreted in a number of different ways.

Who is the Suffering Servant?

As a text written to the exiles in Babylon, it is thought that the servant could have been an unnamed hero or the nation of Israel itself or even king Cyrus who God used to rescue them.

As a text read by Christians, it is thought that the servant is Jesus, and that Isaiah foretells his coming to live and die for our sins.

The movement of the text is from humiliation and shame to greatness and honour.

The servant suffers injustice and cruelty, but not because of his fault. Instead, he takes on the sins, or wrongdoings of others. We did the wrong actions, but it is the suffering servant who is punished in our place. He died for us.

The servant was humble and obedient. Through his suffering we are reunited with God. In the end God rewards him with honour.

Psalm 91:9-16

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, * and the Most High your habitation,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, * neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, * to keep you in all your ways.

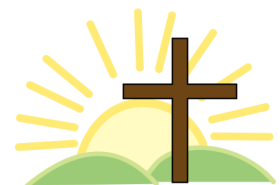
12 They shall bear you in their hands, * lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; * you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; * I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; * I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, * and show him my salvation.



The psalmist speaks to God's care of those who are obedient and place their trust in Him.

The Second Lesson (Hebrews 5:1-10)

The writer continues his effort to teach and exhort his readers to accept the importance of Christ Jesus. This is done by looking at various ways in which Christ is the fulfilment of many of the Jewish rituals and heritage. In this instance Jesus is seen as the Great High Priest.

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;
as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

BIBLE STUDY: Hebrews 5:1-10

When we think of leadership, and titles such as High Priest, we might think of glory, greatness, power and authority.

However, in Judaism, the high priest was God’s humble intercessor. He represented all persons before God. The high priest was from the people, and knew the experiences of the people and so did not elevate himself above them, but was understanding of their shortcomings. The high priest offered sacrifices for the sins of the people as well as for his own. It was an honoured position that was given to him.

Christ was called by God to be a high priest for all people. When Jesus took on human form, he also took on human experiences including suffering. Through this suffering, Jesus learned to trust and obey God. Jesus honoured God, and God answered his prayers that he offered on our behalf.

In the end, Jesus was raised by God to his place of honour in God’s kingdom, and has become the source of our salvation.

QUESTIONS:

How do you feel knowing that Jesus understands what you are experiencing?

What are some of the cares and concerns that you want Jesus to take to God on your behalf?

ACTIVITY:

Write a prayer of intercession.

Pray for the persons in your family and community, the wider nation and world and for yourself.



Gospel St. Mark 10:35-45

James and John ask Jesus for places of prominence in his kingdom. This angers the other disciples. Jesus tells them that to become the greatest and first in the Kingdom of God, they must be servant and slave of all persons.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

St. Mark 10:35-45 Cont.



BIBLE STUDY:

Jesus had just shared that he was going up to Jerusalem and would be unjustly condemned and killed. After three days he would rise from the dead. James and John, the sons of Zebedee asked him for positions of prominence when he was glorified by God.

They did not seem to understand the suffering that Jesus was to endure, or they totally dismissed it as even being possible. Instead, they were focused on how they would benefit from his kingly power, when it was given to him.

When Jesus asked them if they were prepared to share in the cup of suffering, and the baptism of putting themselves in conflict with evil and dangerous powers, as he was about to do, they answered yes. They were prepared to give up their lives, and to suffer and die for others. Jesus indicated that in time they would actually do that, but the positions of power were not his to give anyone.

The other disciples became angry with James and John, but Jesus used it to teach them a valuable lesson:

As his followers, they were called to be different from the world. Instead of seeking power and greatness, they were to be humble, servant leaders. They were to follow his example of sacrificially serving others, rather than looking for others to serve them.

QUESTIONS

What do we usually look for in leaders?
Eg. Strong? Tall? Well-spoken?

Do we normally select the small, young or weak as leaders?

Describe the leadership that Jesus leaves us as an example?

Activity: Word Search

J	O	B	S	E	V	A	L	S	J	A	N	T	P
C	A	E	P	U	C	H	T	Y	R	A	N	T	S
C	Z	M	N	E	V	A	E	H	F	O	L	O	S
S	A	V	E	M	E	L	M	E	A	T	L	T	O
E	R	O	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	H	O	A	N
R	I	I	Y	T	I	E	L	U	A	G	R	L	M
V	A	C	N	J	G	R	E	A	T	I	D	G	Y
E	G	E	M	O	O	N	M	O	T	R	I	R	Y
V	G	A	J	H	Y	A	R	S	I	A	H	A	R
E	R	R	A	N	S	O	M	N	R	Y	V	N	O
R	I	G	Q	A	U	S	K	I	K	A	T	T	L
Y	N	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	I	R	P	G
N	A	M	Z	R	U	L	E	R	S	E	F	I	L

- Cup Sit Serve Glory Gentile Great Ransom
- Man Son Slave Lord Servant Rulers Tyrants
- Life James Right Drink Baptism Grant John



We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

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