

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, You speak to us and guide our ways through your word. Inspire us by the Holy Spirit to dig deep and be transformed by the love, grace, power, and wisdom we find in your scriptures, that we might, as changed people, carry forth your vision of peace and justice into our community and the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS: PSALM 19: 7-10**

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup>the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;  
<sup>9</sup>the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MARK 10 :17-31**

<sup>17</sup> As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup> He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup> When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

### REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER TIM KIRCHOFF

The response Jesus provides about possessions and riches to this man seeking guidance about eternal life with God, is probably just as disturbing to us now as it was to this man and to the disciples. Why would I want to give everything away and be poor after working hard using the very talents God gave me to earn my living? Hanging on to our worldly possessions is a very human trait. In fact, even animals instinctively will fight over food. Mine, mine, mine!

I think there are a couple of things from Mark’s Gospel reading to consider. First off, we know that Jesus will make the ultimate sacrifice for all our sins, handing us our salvation. So why this warning that the wealthy won’t enter the kingdom of God? Since this is a reflection, please understand that this is really my interpretation and belief. Could it be that Jesus is really referencing the old phrase “you can’t take it with you when you go”? We will not be taking any of our worldly possessions with us to heaven after we die. Our riches on Earth will have no merit or meaning when we enter the kingdom. Jesus tells us that with God, all things are possible. God will simply free us from all our possessions when we are called to His kingdom, as they will no longer have any importance to us.

Secondly, Jesus concludes his teaching with the familiar “the first will be last and the last will be first.” I’m pretty sure this phrase has been interpreted in different ways. I think it is more of a command or instruction rather than a warning. When I think about it in that way, it really connects with the ideas I addressed above. Is God ashamed of our comforts we earned throughout our lives? No, I don’t think so. Remember above I mentioned God has gifted each and every one of us many talents to succeed in this world. I think what we do with our wealth is more important. When we help others financially or with our time (time is a big part of our wealth too because we only have so many days to live on this Earth), we are putting others first in front of us. We are putting ourselves last, and God loves us for it. When we love others, we also love God. We in turn feel that love each and every time we give. That is what places us “first” every time we place ourselves last. Amen!

## HYMN OF THE DAY | LORD JESUS, YOU SHALL BE MY SONG

<https://youtu.be/G4STNMERR0Q?si=ZjKvXEDP8iPP3QBU>

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we walk together through this season of contemplation and preparation, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, we cannot by our own power choose to follow you as you would like. Keep us from becoming discouraged, and remind us that with you all things are possible. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with awe at the astonishing beauty of your creation, entrusted to us from the beginning, and give us a passion for its stewardship according to your will. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire all who lead at every level to work tirelessly for the health and flourishing of all your beloved children, near and far. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Guide doctors and caregivers in their service to those who struggle physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and send your healing power to all in need, especially Dave, Terry and all those we lift up through our Prayer Chain. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to recognize our wealth and the ways it gets in the way of our following you, and give us greater trust in you to provide for our true needs. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided, especially those seeking help through the Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, Rise Against Suicide, and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower the staff and parents of children living on the Autism Spectrum. Nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and adults, that they might reach their highest quality of life. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage and empower those impacted by war, tyranny, and gun violence. Still the sounds of weapons. Teach us to seek security that comes from respect rather than violence. Strengthen and comfort the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, and all those throughout the world whose lives are impacted by violence. Remind us of what You require of us: That we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**



**SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS: FEBRUARY 18- FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>- First Last and Last First**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion  
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom “Why Church?” Lenten Study immediately following worship

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

11:00 a.m. – Amazing Grace Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. - Zoom Only “Why Church?” Bible Study

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - Bartimaeus Healed**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion  
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom “Why Church?” Lenten Study immediately following worship

<p><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b> <b><u>BIRTHDAYS</u></b> <b><u>JANICE I. 2/6</u></b> <b><u>ELIZABETH H. 2/15</u></b> <b><u>KATHY W. 2/15</u></b> <b><u>BECCA B. 2/21</u></b> <b><u>CAROL C. 2/22</u></b> <b><u>CAROLINE M. 2/24</u></b></p>
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## DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18, 2024

### **Monday, February 19, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-197-10-psalm2024>

Psalm 19:7-10    Psalm

### **Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/exodus-201-21-the-ten-commandments2024>

Exodus 20:1-21    The Ten Commandments

### **Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/deuteronomy-51-21-the-ten-commandments2024>

Deuteronomy 5:1-21    The Ten Commandments

### **Thursday, February 22, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-52-psalm2024>

Psalm 52    Psalm

### **Friday, February 23, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-62-psalm2024>

Psalm 62    Psalm

### **Saturday, February 24, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/jeremiah-321-25-jeremiah-buys-a-field2024>

Jeremiah 3:21-25    Jeremiah Buys a Field

### **Sunday, February 25, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1032-52-bartimaeus-healed2024>

Mark 10:32:52    Bartimaeus Healed