

**MONDAY**  
**8 NOVEMBER**

**Wisdom 1:1-7**  
**or Titus 1:1-9**  
**Psalm 139:1-9**  
**or 24:1-6**  
**Luke 17:1-6**

**TUESDAY**  
**9 NOVEMBER**

**Wisdom 2:23 – 3:9**  
**or Titus 2:1-8, 11-14**  
**Psalm 34:1-6**  
**or 37:3-5, 30-32**  
**Luke 17:7-10**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**10 NOVEMBER**

**Wisdom 6:1-11**  
**or Titus 3:1-7**  
**Psalm 82 or 23**  
**Luke 17:11-19**

**THURSDAY**  
**11 NOVEMBER**

**Wisdom 7:22 – 8:1**  
**or Philemon 7-20**  
**Psalm 119:89-96**  
**or 146:4-end**  
**Luke 17:20-25**

**FRIDAY**  
**12 NOVEMBER**

**Wisdom 13:1-9**  
**or 2 John 4-9**  
**Psalm 19:1-4**  
**or 119:1-8**  
**Luke 17:26-end**

**SATURDAY**  
**13 NOVEMBER**

**Wisdom 18:14-16;**  
**19:6-9 or 3 John 5-8**  
**Psalm 105:1-5, 35-42 or 112**  
**Luke 18:1-8**

# REFLECTION

How do the disciples react when they hear the things Jesus says about living in the kingdom of God and what the future holds for them? It must all sound a bit daunting and, if they're honest,

not at all what they thought following Jesus would be like, as they set off with him from Galilee. He talks to them about their responsibilities:

- They must watch over his other followers and do nothing that would cause them to stray from his teachings.
- They must go on forgiving someone when they say sorry no matter how many times it happens.
- They must accept that they won't get special treatment just for doing what God wants them to do.
- And finally, they are going to face some sort of cataclysmic event in the "days of the Son of Man" but they don't know when that will be.

After all that they need to see Jesus healing lepers, restoring them to their family and friends. And they need to know that God hears their prayers and will help them.

We need to know that, too, as we journey on in faith with thanksgiving.

PRAYER

God, our refuge and strength,  
we ask you to teach us to watch, forgive and accept,  
and to know that you hear our prayers and are on our side.  
We ask these things through Christ our Lord.



# PRAYER AND HEALING

## PART II – QUESTIONS OF HEALING

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asks the blind man in Luke’s Gospel (18:35-43 – Mark names him Bartimaeus). And in John’s Gospel (5:6), at the pool named Bethesda (or Bethesda) in Jerusalem, Jesus again asks a question of someone apparently seeking healing. This time it’s “Do you want to be made well?” When we’re praying for healing it might help us to reflect on these questions.

What do we want Jesus to do for us? Perhaps we think it’s obvious, but we need to remember that God is interested in the whole of our being and Jesus offers his peace, love and joy – a healing which may not necessarily mean a cure for whatever medical condition troubles us or the people for whom we pray.

Do we want to get well? When Bartimaeus and the man at Bethesda are healed their worlds change in many ways. They have greater independence and can make wider choices. They have new roles and responsibilities in their families and in the wider community.

When we think about change like that in our own lives it might feel quite scary – perhaps it would be safer to stay in the security of the familiar even with the hurt and pain that goes with it.

There are also questions about healing that we might want to ask Jesus. Like the man with leprosy in Mark (1:40), who says to Jesus “If you choose, you can make me clean,” we might question whether Jesus really can and does care for us. Then we need to hear Jesus affirming “I will” – “Of course I want to heal you and make you whole.”

And if our faith is shaky we have the heartfelt prayer of the father whose son suffers violent convulsions: “I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24). When we pray for healing we’re praying to a loving God who understands us and it’s safe to trust God to work only for our “shalom” – wholeness and healing in the richest sense.

# LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU THROUGH THE WEEK

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Jesus and Bartimaeus, St Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington, London. Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

Third week  
before Advent

Monday 8 November to  
Saturday 13 November  
2021