

OCTOBER 14, 2018
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

Approach God with boldness and receive mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad
Monday	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Seek good and not evil
Tuesday	Hebrews 4:12-16	Jesus is the great high priest
Wednesday	Proverbs 31:8-9	Defend the poor
Thursday	Luke 18:18-30	A rich man
Friday	Leviticus 19:2-37	God's commandments
Saturday	Psalms 90:12-17	Teach us wisdom
Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to serve

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you give and you require both justice and mercy. As we receive your grace, lead us to others with your never-failing love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, help us to share the food we receive and give gladly to any who are in need. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's word be at work in you. May the Lord give you strength in times of weakness and mercy in times of need. (Hebrews 4:12-16)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Canticle of the Turning



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Mercy is for those who need forgiveness. Tell about a time you showed mercy and kindness to someone.
- Talk about a time someone forgave you.
- The Bible makes it clear how our lives fall short of loving God (seeking the Lord) and loving our neighbor (justice for those in need). How have you experienced God's forgiveness and grace (grace means "undeserved kindness")?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15.

Amos is critical of the worship life of Israel. Bethel was a primary place to worship God, to "Seek the Lord" (v. 6). However, the worship life there is threatened because of a lack of justice that is described in verses 7 and 10-15. Where do you see around you Amos' (and God's) concern for corruption, mistreatment, and neglect of the poor, and lavish lifestyles? Amos wants the faithful to see that seeking God in worship includes seeking the righteous God in just treatment of others, especially the poor. How does your worship experience lead you to care for the needs of others?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, we thank you for the undeserved kindness you extend to us each day. Forgive us when we do not seek you in worship or in the needs of others. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Mark 10:17-31 is a tough passage about salvation and human wealth. Our wealth can clearly get in the way of God's mission (v. 23). God's gift of salvation is something that only God can accomplish for us (v. 27). Wealth and the power that goes with it challenge our ability to understand and care for others. Service requires a compassionate heart that feels the hurts and pains of others. Reflect on how your influence and power can get in the way of caring for others. Reflect on how a compassionate heart leads you to do acts of kindness.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Mark 10:29-31 Jesus points out that his followers prosper with many family members and family possessions. Being part of the church gives us a large, even global family that presents us with a wealth of relationships to do God's work and will. Practice home hospitality, welcoming fellow neighbors and friends into your dwelling as a way to share your possessions and wealth with them. Offering a simple meal is a way to share the wealth of the kingdom of God. Use the *Mealtime Prayer* as part of your time of breaking bread together.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org