

OCTOBER 16, 2016
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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home

Pray always and never give up.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow
Monday	Psalms 121	Confidence in God's protection
Tuesday	Luke 22:39-46	Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives
Wednesday	Matthew 15:21-28	The faith of a Canaanite woman
Thursday	James 5:13-18	The prayer of faith
Friday	Genesis 18:16-33	Abraham pleads for Sodom
Saturday	Mark 10:46-52	An example of persistence
Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up. **Luke 18:1 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us not to lose heart but to be persistent in faith and hope and in the works of justice and peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, in your name we drink and sup; teach us to pray and not give up. Help us to look to you this day, and show our thanks in all we say. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord keep you from all harm and watch over your life. May God watch over you as you come and go, now and forever. Amen. (Psalm 121:7-8)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who do you turn to when you're in trouble? Why?
- Talk about a time when you asked God for help?
- In the parable of the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8), Jesus begins by encouraging persistent prayer. His story ends by linking prayer to faith. How is faith necessary for us to be persistent in prayer?

DEVOTIONS

The people cry out to God day and night (Luke 18:7). This week use morning and evening prayers from your faith community's worship book or use Martin Luther's *Morning and Evening Prayers* each day.

Morning: I thank you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask you to keep me this day, too, from all sin and evil, so that in all my thoughts, words, and deeds I may please you. In your hands I place my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the evil one may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening: I thank you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive all my sins and the wrong which I have done. And graciously keep me this night. In your hands I place my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me so that the evil one may have no power over me. Amen.

SERVICE

In the parable of the unjust judge, the role of the widow represented a person in ancient society who was vulnerable and unprotected. Look to the needs of those who are vulnerable and unprotected in your community or larger world. Find a way to advocate for their needs by contacting elected local or national officials using a letter or phone call.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus encouraged his followers to persist in prayer and to "not give up" (Luke 18:1). It is easy to lose track of some of the things we want to pray for, whether they be prayers of thanksgiving or praying for the needs of family, friends, and the larger world. Find a way to keep track of what you want to pray for. Here are some examples:

- Keep a prayer journal.
- Have a basket with individual slips of paper.
- Keep a list on the refrigerator that you can add to.

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

