

OCTOBER 23, 2016  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+  
faith  
home

*God stands by those who are guided by humility.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray
Monday	Psalms 84:1-7	The joy of worship
Tuesday	2 Timothy 4:6-18	Keep the faith
Wednesday	Matthew 6:5-13	Jesus teaches about prayer
Thursday	James 4:6-10	God will lift you up
Friday	Isaiah 57:13-19	God gives new life to the humble
Saturday	Matthew 23:1-12	Jesus teaches about humility
Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus visits Zacchaeus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored.” **Luke 18:14 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Amen. (Jesus Prayer based on Luke 18:9-14)

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

We thank you for our food, O God, for life and joy and play. We thank you for the special things you give to us this day. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Jesus forgive you all your sins and lift you up in newness of life. Amen.



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Have you ever felt abandoned by a friend? What happened?
- Even when his friends abandoned him, Paul wrote that “The Lord stood by my side and gave me strength” (2 Timothy 4:16-17). When and how have you experienced God strengthening you?
- What does it mean to “stand by” others?

## DEVOTIONS

Christian humility relies on God’s presence, God’s power, and God’s forgiveness, especially as we fail to be faithful to God and supportive of others. The Jesus Prayer, “**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner,**” is an ancient prayer that has its roots in Luke 18:9-14. It acknowledges God’s centrality and our brokenness as the beginning point to true righteousness, that is, being made right with God. This week repeat the Jesus Prayer as an example of Christian humility that frees our lives from the power of sin and for the love of God and neighbor. After praying the Jesus Prayer a number of times sit in silence and reflect on God’s grace and mercy. You may want to talk about this experience of prayer with others.

## SERVICE

In 2 Timothy 4, Saint Paul writes of his experience of being deserted by others, of feeling alone. Be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to the lonely in your area. Invite someone who lives alone or who is new to your community to a meal at your home. Aim to get to know him/her better and to introduce him/her to others.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The writer of Psalm 84 spoke of the journey to the temple in Jerusalem. The psalmist expressed the joy of being able to worship God in God’s “house.” For the Christian church, where one dwells is also a place to worship God. Honor your home as a joyous dwelling place of God by committing to a devotional life, blessing one another and singing or praying hymns or praise songs in your home.



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