

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God's surprising generosity.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10–4:11	The Lord explains God's compassion
Tuesday	1 Timothy 6:17-19	God provides richly
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	The riches of God's grace
Thursday	Titus 3:3-7	The generosity of God
Friday	John 1:14-18	One blessing after another
Saturday	Psalms 145	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?” **Matthew 20:15 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Lord, you are so generous to us. Help us to be generous to others. Amen. (Matthew 20:1-16)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God so generous, God so good, we thank you for our daily food. Bless our meal and with us stay, guide and keep us through this day. Amen.

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

May the God of steadfast love and mercy, bless you and fill you with a spirit of generosity.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Speak to Us, That  
We May Speak*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- When have you received the benefit of another person's kindness or generosity that you didn't think you deserved? Explain.
- When have you been jealous when someone else received more help or benefits than you did? Explain.
- Read Matthew 20:1-16. Should we be angry if we sense that God is being generous to others? Why or why not?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Jonah 3:10–4:11.

Jonah was called by God to have the people of Nineveh repent. Jonah saw these people as an enemy of Israel and loathsome. He tried to run away from God's calling but was not successful. Jonah knew that God was a merciful and gracious God, "slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing" (4:2b). Jonah preferred to die than to witness God's mercy to Nineveh. Who is a personal or national enemy that you do not want God to show mercy toward? Can you imagine how distasteful it is for God to show kindness in that situation? Pray the following prayer:

**Dear God, I thank you for your constant love and mercy for me. Help me to rejoice at your kindness and mercy for others. Amen.**

### SERVICE



In Jonah and in Matthew 30, we are presented with God's kindness and generosity that goes beyond what seems reasonable or right. They are examples of God's ways being far different than our ways (Isaiah 55:8). Practice kindness that may go beyond your comfort level. Do an act of kindness for someone you do not like or believe deserves your generosity. Reflect on and discuss with someone how that deed made you feel and what it means to have a God who goes beyond what seems right and good.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Throughout the week, prayerfully recite the following verse: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 145:8).



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)