

OCTOBER 1, 2017
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

God instructs, guides, and protects us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Matthew 21:23-32 | Parable of the two sons |
| Monday | Hosea 14:1-8 | Return to the Lord |
| Tuesday | Philippians 2:1-13 | Imitating Christ's humility |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 55:6-13 | Turn to the Lord |
| Thursday | John 15:7-17 | Obeying the commands of Christ |
| Friday | James 1:19-25 | Do what the word says |
| Saturday | Psalms 25 | A prayer for guidance and help |
| Sunday | Matthew 21:33-46 | Parable of the vineyard tenants |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Show me your paths and teach me to follow; guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you.

Psalm 25:4-5 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, change our hearts and our minds. Give us a desire for your will and the courage to actually do it. Amen. (Ezekiel 30:31, Matthew 21:29)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, once again we are well fed; thank you for our daily bread. Help us not to moan or grumble; give us hearts both kind and humble. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who exulted our Lord Jesus Christ and who is a work in you, bless you to walk in humble service. (Philippians 2:1-13)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Savior, Like a Shepherd
Lead Us*



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something you have learned about recently?
- What does it mean to believe in a forgiving God?
- How does God's forgiveness and instruction make a difference in your life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Philippians 2:12-13.

The Christian life is filled with freedom and action. We are saved by grace and yet our way of life is to be filled with good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). There is a both/and perspective to the Christian life: God's gracious work alone saves and the Christian life is filled with good actions that give glory to God and serve the neighbor. In Philippians 2, the Apostle Paul places emphasis on our human commitment in "fear and trembling" to pursue the life of salvation. He then points out that our very will and ability to do so is enabled by the act and desire of God. Why is it important that our life of salvation is directed by the work and will of God? Why is it important that we actively give attention and commitment to the life of salvation given by God in Christ?

End by praying the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



Read Matthew 21:28-31. Jesus tells a story about a father with two sons. The father tells the sons to go and work in the vineyard. One says he will but doesn't. The other says he won't but then does. Act out this parable. Talk about what it means to follow through with requests. Tell about a time you said you would do something for another person but did not do it. Receive God's forgiveness for your lack of action and consider how to fulfill commitments in the future.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Read Philippians 2:1-13. In this hymn of praise for Christ's humility and exultation, it states that people should bend the knee at the name of Jesus. In keeping with this text, if possible, kneel when you pray this week.



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