

AUGUST 18, 2019  
TENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*The gospel brings division, not just peace.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division
Monday	Jeremiah 23:23-29	God's word is like fire
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:29–12:2	Faith in God
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 33:1-17	The reign of Manasseh
Thursday	Matthew 24:15-27	The desolating sacrilege
Friday	Hebrews 10:19-39	Encouragement and warning
Saturday	Psalms 82	Justice to the weak
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!” **Luke 12:51 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Dear God, give us the courage to face hostility with peace and conviction that comes from following Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen us with this food to be your people of faith and good courage. Amen.

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

May our Lord Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, fill you with joy and good courage. (Hebrews 12:2)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God of Grace and  
God of Glory*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What happens when you disagree with someone?
- When you feel stressed from conflict, how do you handle it?
- How does your faith help you to face conflict in daily life?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 12:49-56.

We love to say to others, especially our children, “Jesus loves you.” Yes, this is true. However, the Jesus who loves us stands for something opposed to the world that is filled with sin and destructive forces. The love Jesus brings is a powerful love that does not tolerate sin, death, and the devil. To follow Jesus means turning ones back on ruinous and unfaithful ways, and that leads to the demise of some relationships, even in one’s own home. To be a Christian means not being any other religious identity. That means for some homes and some relationships that a Christian will not be accepted. Christians, even today are on occasion shunned from their own families. Christians are called upon to reject behaviors and creeds that speak against God’s reign of forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation. Jesus knows this and repeatedly the church has to learn this. The present times—whether in Jesus’ day or ours—require us to read the events around us and to know that God’s kingdom will not accept the powers of the world that lead to domination, control, hate, and death. Thanks be to God for that. What relationships have you encountered that are strained because of your faith in Jesus?

*Pray:* **Almighty and merciful God, help us to trust the power of peace and love that will not accept the powers of sin and death, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

### SERVICE

Psalms 82:2-4 is a plea for justice. Justice is treating others fairly and showing respect. Christian service honors the God of mercy who lifts up the lowly. Who is it that you can lift up this week with an act of kindness?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Hebrews 11-12, we are surrounded by a “cloud of witnesses.” These are faithful people in our lives who guided us in our faith lives. Fill a bowl with cotton balls to symbolize clouds. Remove one at a time and as you do so, name a person, current or past, who has helped strengthen you in your life of faith. Draw a circle on a sheet of paper and write your name in the center of the circle. Place each cotton ball you have removed somewhere on the circle. Place this sheet in a visible place this week as a reminder you are always surrounded by God’s love.



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)