

NOVEMBER 1, 2020  
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking+ faith home

*God's power is seen in humility.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 23:1-12	Humble yourselves
Monday	Micah 3:5-12	Wicked rulers and prophets
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Leading a life worthy of God
Wednesday	Joshua 3:7-17	Crossing over the Jordan River
Thursday	Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 43	A prayer for protection
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

**Matthew 23:11-12 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for the power and grace of humble service; help us to bear the fruit of justice and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of this food, a sign of your constant love for us through Christ our Teacher and Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the power of God's love bless you and free you to be a humble servant.



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Whose Love in  
Humble Service*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What does it mean to practice what you preach?
- How have people of authority misused their power in your life or the lives of others?
- Jesus saw a world where people with religious power took advantage of their positions. How does any misuse of power in the church hurt the witness of the church in the world?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 23:1-12.

A famous proverb by the historian Lord Acton states, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Jesus made similar points when he accused scribes and Pharisees of not living up to the standards they set for others. Micah 3:5-12 accused Israel's false prophets of being self-serving, prophesying to others whatever benefited themselves. One of the challenges of the church today is coming to terms with the corruptibility of television evangelists, pastors and priests who abuse children, and the church leaders who protect them. There continues to be evidence today of religious leaders who don't practice what they preach. Jesus rejects the prestige of religious titles that put some above others like scribe, Pharisee, rabbi, teacher, or instructor. The true power of the kingdom is to serve others in love, not to flaunt one's power and authority over others. Christians are on the same level, not one above another. They are able to bless and serve others in a way that reflects the power of love, grace, and service. As Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant" (v. 11). How do Jesus' teachings free you to speak and serve equally with all other disciples of Christ?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, you alone rule over your church with absolute grace and truth. Help us to humbly receive your power of love and serve others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Think about what Jesus said to the crowds and disciples when he said that "the greatest among you will be your servant." Do you know someone who humbly serves others, never asking to be applauded? Call or send a thank you note to that person letting them know you appreciate their humble service.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus teaches us to be humble and not be a show off. Write acts of service on sticky notes and post on a wall. Take one down each day; think about or discuss whether you have ever done the act, then pray: **Dear God, help me to live humbly in your eyes and serve others in love. Amen.**



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)