

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God cares for the poor and the needy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager
Monday	Amos 8:4-7	Judgment on Israel
Tuesday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Thursday	James 2:1-13	Warning against having favorites
Friday	Isaiah 58:6-9	True religion
Saturday	Psalms 113	The Lord helps people in need
Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [God] raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

Psalms 113:7-8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we thank you for your justice that is like no other and your mercy that reaches to the ends of the earth through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, help us to receive this food with a thankful heart and a living faith that prays for food for those who don't have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who cares for the poor bless you with a compassionate heart.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Light Dawns on a
Weary World*



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 are some of the things you thank God for?
- How is God's care for the poor and needy shown through your actions?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 113.

The psalm begins with an exhortation to praise God everywhere and for all time. The glory, the fame and preeminence of the LORD, extends beyond the heavens, beyond what anyone can imagine. There is clearly a sense of an all-encompassing grandeur here. The God of the Bible is like no other. Why: Because God created all things? Because of God's power that can conquer the gods of the enemies of Israel? No. At least, that is not the answer given in Psalm 113. God is great and to be praised because our God "raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap" (v. 7). God cares for a man in his poverty and a woman in her barrenness. God creates new realities for them and for those around them, like princes who now must welcome the poor as an equal. That is a God worth praising, says Psalm 113. And, in Christ, that is the God who changes all social equations to bring honor to those not honored and eternal hope for those who seem without hope.

Discuss: God is to be praised for caring for everyone in need. What does this mean to you?

Pray: **God, you who use your power and justice to shine on those in need, we praise you now and always for your glory that shines on us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support and honor the poor in your community and the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul encourages us to offer "supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings" for all those in positions of authority and leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Think or talk about leaders in the world, the country, and your community. This week take time to pray for them: **Lord God, we thank you for those in leadership positions and ask that you bless them in their work. May they use their positions to care for the poor and show honor to you. Amen.**



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