

OCTOBER 15, 2023
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Paul offers a guide for our life together.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his coworkers
Wednesday	Acts 2:43-47	Life among believers
Thursday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Friday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Timothy's spiritual background
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us your peace that we may live together as a community of faith with compassion and confidence through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal, a sign of your care for us that knows no end through Christ Jesus our Lord and Shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life. (Psalm 23:6)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*We've Come This
Far by Faith*



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:

- Is there a friend or relative who thinks and acts similar to you? Explain.
- How does faith in Jesus guide and influence the way we live with others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 4:1-9.

Two women who have worked side by side with Paul are urged to "be of the same mind in the Lord" (v. 2). Paul does not explain his specific concerns. They are co-workers in the gospel and need help from the community. What Paul urges is that they face whatever the issue may be with the mind, the attitude, of Christ. Paul describes the mind of Christ with words like rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving. All of this leads to the peace of God. In our own time, we in the church are co-workers, and yet we, too, need help to live together in peace. Paul's message leads us to pursue our issues with one another with truth, honor, justice, purity, excellence, and praise. Simply put, the gospel leads us to remember and pursue what is commendable for our life together, not on what divides us. Paul emphasizes that his words are worth thinking about again and again.

Discuss: How can reflecting on the mind of Christ help you receive the peace of God as you live with others in the church?

Pray: **God of peace, help us to see each other with the mind of Christ that we may live with one another in peace and with honor and justice for all through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, in what ways can you show humility and gentleness toward others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 23 is the shepherd David's song to God and one of the most well-known scriptures in the Bible. David likens how a shepherd cares for sheep to how God loves each one of us. Draw or make a sheep using cotton, cardboard, glue, and crayons/markers. Think or talk about ways a shepherd cares for sheep and then about how God cares for you.

Pray: **Lord, thank you for caring for me and leading me with 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