

OCTOBER 27, 2019  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Keep the faith.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 8:9-14</b>	<b>A Pharisee and tax collector pray</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22</b>	<b>Jeremiah prays to the Lord</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18</b>	<b>Personal instructions</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Samuel 12:1-25</b>	<b>Samuel's farewell address</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>James 1:2-8</b>	<b>Faith and wisdom</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Luke 10:17-20</b>	<b>The return of the seventy</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 84:1-7</b>	<b>The joy of worship</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 19:1-10</b>	<b>Jesus visits Zacchaeus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **2 Timothy 4:7 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Dear God, give us faith that endures the difficult moments and remains confident in your gracious work of salvation. In Christ we pray, amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord, we are thankful for this food as we say this grace. Please help us keep the faith and finish the race. Amen.

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

May you long for God; may you sing for joy to the living God. (Psalm 84:2)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Faith Looks  
Up to Thee*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Have you or someone you know ever run in a race?
- How do you keep or cling to your faith when times are tough?
- Who has been a faith role model in your life? In what ways?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18.*

Second Timothy is the last testimony of Paul to Timothy, of an elder mentor to an emerging leader in the church. Paul is aware his death is soon approaching. If life is compared to a demanding struggle or competition, he has made it to the end, done so well, and kept the faith. He has not given up; he and all those who long to see the face of God will receive their heavenly reward. In Luke 18:9-14 we see the need for confession and for mercy. But here, is a note of victory, of triumph. Yes, it is God's victory shown in Jesus Christ, and it is ours to celebrate. One of the great gifts of the elders of the faith is to be able to look back and say to younger believers, "It was all worth it. Yes, there were struggles, but that is over now for me. It is worth it for you, too, my children. Keep the faith." Leaving a legacy of faith, of courage, good hope, and confidence remains a valued blessing for the body of Christ. What legacy do you want to leave for those who come after you? How does the Christian faith triumph over the struggles you have experienced?

*Pray: God of all our days, in the midst of difficult moments, help us to know that in the end, faith brings a joy and confidence like no other, through Christ our Lord, amen.*

### SERVICE

Hospitality is a Christian response to God's love. Welcoming someone into your congregation can be much appreciated by someone who is looking for a place to worship. All are welcome in God's house. Psalm 84:3 gives an example of hospitality, "Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself." Do you know a friend or neighbor who might be looking for a place to worship and a faith community where they are embraced and can find spiritual rest? Invite them to a worship service.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus tells the story of a Pharisee who was proud and a tax collector who was humble. The tax collector asked God to have mercy on him. The Pharisee asked God for nothing. Take a paper plate and divide it into 6 pie-shaped pieces. Cut them out. Write one letter of the word HUMBLE on each piece. Mix the pieces of this "humble" pie and then place them back together in the correct order. Think of a word for each letter that describes humble. Place the pie in a visible place in your home this week as a reminder of God's mercy.



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)