

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking 
faith
home

God's compassion knows no limits.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering
Monday	1 Kings 17:8-16	Elijah helps a widow
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:24-28	Christ's great sacrifice
Wednesday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Thursday	Acts 20:17-35	Paul says goodbye
Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 13:1-10	The signs of the end of the age

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, . . . who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. Psalm 146:5 and 7a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of all creation, help us to find our trust in you, for you provide justice for the poor and food for the needy. In Jesus' name, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who give food to the hungry, we thank you for caring for us this day with the gift of this meal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who created you and sustains you show kindness to you each and every day.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Blessed Are They

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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:

- How do you show compassion to others?
- What gets in the way of showing compassion to those who are not like ourselves?
- God's power and grace knows no limits. How does knowing this strengthen you to be compassionate towards others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-16.

The story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in Sidon is remembered for the miracle of providing food for Elijah, the woman, and her son. However, the context of the miracle story is also important. In the previous chapter Ahab had taken Jezebel as his wife. She was from Sidon and a worshiper of the Canaanite god Baal. Ahab would also worship Baal in Israel. In contrast, Elijah goes to Sidon, the land of Baal worship and is received by a woman who was not a worshiper of the God of Israel. Elijah, the widow and her son are all blessed by the power of the God of Israel with food so that they would not die. God's power and compassion is demonstrated outside of Israel in the presence of a foreign god and a foreign people. God's power, love, and grace will know no limits. Where have you seen God's love and mercy happening in unexpected places?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to be open to the wideness of your love and mercy, even for people and places we would not expect. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SERVICE

Serving others is at the center of our Christian life. It is a life of generosity. In Mark 12, the widow gave without the need to be noticed or praised for her generosity. How do you give generously to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The reading from Mark 12 tells about a widow who placed two small mite coins (all that she had) into the offering box. Giving to the needs of others is an act of compassion. Set up a Giving Box in your home. Place money into the box and/or notes that promise to do acts of kindness for others. Each time you contribute to the Giving Box, offer this prayer: **Dear God, as you have been generous and kind to me, help me to be generous and kind to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

