

NOVEMBER 12, 2023
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Worship that is pleasing to God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Psalms 106:1-12	A confession of Israel's sins
Thursday	Isaiah 1:10-17	Justice is needed, not sacrifices
Friday	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	Treat everyone with justice
Saturday	Psalms 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your call for justice and mercy that gives hope to our lives and to the generations to come through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who shows mercy on the poor deliver you from harm. (Psalm 70:5)



NOVEMBER 12, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Canticle of the Turning

taking† faith home

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:

- Why is care for those in need so important?
- What type of worship do you think pleases God? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Amos 5:18-24.

Amos' prophetic words are not addressed to those who are indifferent or have actively rejected faith in God. His message is for those who worship God. He uses words of caution filled with danger and accusation. The worshiping community becomes shaken out of complacency. What God sees and smells and hears in worship is not pleasing. Worship is offered without concern for the needs of the poor (justice) and the wellbeing of the community (righteousness). Worship that is pleasing to God includes the daily life activity of people that shows compassion and delights in healthy relationships. Worship promotes a faithful way of life that is itself a form of worship and praise to God. It is good to know that the power of God's justice is like a flood of water, a deluge, and God's righteousness is constant like a stream that never stops flowing.

Discuss: How does worship lead you to acts of compassion that serve the needs of others?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, may our worship life reflect your compassion for the needy and our need for strong and life-giving relationships through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to enable them to have life-giving relationships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Matthew 25:1-13 is the parable of the foolish bridesmaids who did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to keep the faith alive and "burning" while waiting for Christ's return. We can do this by being ready to do God's work every day. Light a candle to symbolize the light of Jesus' love shining. While the candle is burning write a list of ways you can do God's work every day.

Pray: **Dear God, be with me each day. Help me to show love, fairness, and care for others through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen**

