


SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK 
*Will You Let Me Be Your
Servant*



Jesus calls us to be a servant to all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest
Monday	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Plot to kill Jeremiah
Tuesday	James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a	Wisdom from above
Wednesday	Galatians 5:13-15	The nature of Christian freedom
Thursday	Psalms 31:14-24	A prayer for protection
Friday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul's charge to Timothy
Saturday	Psalms 54	A cry to God for help
Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] sat down, called the twelve and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us wisdom and faith to see that being a servant to others is the path of life and greatness through our Lord Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your loving service that provides for us this gift of food through Jesus Christ, the one who came to be a servant of all. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God deliver you from every trouble. (Psalm 54:7)

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:

- Who is the most important person you know? Describe what makes that person important.
- How does our general understanding of greatness differ from Jesus' focus on greatness through service?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 9:30-37.

In this reading, Jesus' disciples clearly do not understand what Jesus is saying. They are afraid to even question Jesus. They seem clueless and pretty much end up imagining the opposite of what Jesus has been saying. They argued about who was the greatest among them. Jesus had to shake things up a bit to get them on the right track. Instead of greatness and power, Jesus used the example of a defenseless child. He reasoned that if you want to understand his kingdom, you must be like a small, powerless child. Whatever you consider to be the best and the greatest, put that last. Whatever you are tempted to dishonor, honor it for all to see. So, what does a follower of Jesus look like? (A servant of everyone else.) Instead of the greatness of being served, greatness for Jesus is serving. Giving your life's blood for the needs of others will fill them with good things and bless them with the presence of a gracious God.

Discuss: How has someone served you and how did that make you feel?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us ears to hear and eyes to see the life you want for us as servants that all may know your love through Christ Jesus, the one who died that we may live. 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 be a servant to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

James 3:18 states, "And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." Pray this well-known prayer written by St. Francis of Assisi and discuss what it means:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.