

NOVEMBER 10, 2024
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking†
faith
home

The mercy of God reaches out in unexpected ways.

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	Luke 6:32-36	Love for enemies
Thursday	Deuteronomy 4:25-31	The Lord is merciful
Friday	Joel 2:12-14	Return to the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 13:1-8	The signs of the end of the age

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Go [God says to Elijah] now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you."
1 Kings 17:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, your ways are not our ways; help us to be open to your surprising grace that reaches out to all through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, to you who made heaven and earth and give justice to those who are burdened, we give thanks for the gift of this food. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 146:6-7)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with mercy to share with others.



NOVEMBER 10, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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:

- What have you learned from someone who is from another country?
- Think or tell about someone you know from another faith tradition.

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-16.

This story from the Old Testament is surprising. How can a man of God go to a poor, non-Hebrew widow, who is economically, religiously, and socially "marginalized", and ask for help? To get to the heart of this message, understanding the background is helpful. King Ahab of Israel had married the foreign princess Jezebel from Sidon. She brought her Baal worship to Israel and tried to put an end to the worship of the God of Israel. As a result, there was fear of—and a distancing from—foreigners in portions of the Old Testament. The widow, like Jezebel, is from Sidon. Despite that, God directs Elijah to receive the aid of a woman, who is widowed, who is poor to the point of death, and who is a Baal worshiper. Elijah is fed and the widow receives miraculous assistance. This passage is a reminder that the grace and mercy of God is for all. We are to pray and look for that grace in unexpected places and for people who seem to be the furthest from God's reign.

Discuss: How has someone from another faith tradition helped you understand your own faith better?

Pray: **Merciful God, just as you served Elijah through the work of a foreign widow, help us to be open to how you extend your grace and mercy through those unlike us. In Jesus' name, 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 care for someone who seems ignored by others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Generosity is giving to others freely and abundantly. Mark 12:38-44 is the story of a widow who gave two small coins, all that she had to live on, as an offering. In the same way that the widow gave to the Lord, we also should give. Money isn't all that we can give. Generosity is the giving of time, talent, and treasure. Write a list of ways you can show generosity to others. Take a moment to talk about or reflect on your list.

Pray: **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.**

