

NOVEMBER 17, 2024  
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Our hope is in the steadfast love of God.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:1-8	The signs of the end of the age
Monday	Daniel 12:1-3	The resurrection of the dead
Tuesday	Hebrews 10:11-25	A call to perseverance
Wednesday	Romans 12:9-13	Marks of a true Christian
Thursday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:13-18	Living by faith
Saturday	Psalms 16	A life centered on the Lord
Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."* Mark 13:8 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Everlasting God, in the midst of troubles and uncertainties, give us faith to rely on your goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, for daily bread that gives us strength and for your promise to always be with us that gives us courage, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

May God give you steadfast love and hope through Jesus Christ.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Hope Is Built on  
Nothing Less*

### 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 events in our world do you see that give you concern about the future?
- Do you turn to God during difficult times? Explain.

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 13:1-8.

Throughout history, we have tried to grasp the intensity of Jesus' words found in this passage. The Gospel of Mark was likely written around 70 AD. It was a time of deep uncertainty and violence for Jews. Roman occupation forces were using their power to decimate Jewish resistance. The Jerusalem temple would be destroyed and hundreds of thousands of Jews would die. In our own lifetime, we have experienced wars, a pandemic, racial and political unrest, climate change, and more. Life is full of uncertainties. We look for security in the future. Jesus makes it clear that a building (a temple or other place of worship) is not the answer. Institutions, whether social, political, or religious, are not the answer. We are not to be deceived. Jesus also makes it clear that our only solid rock and hope is in the steadfast love of God. God is the one who takes chaos and makes it into a good and beautiful creation. God is the one who takes the cross and makes of it the birth of new life that will never be conquered by sin, death, or the evil one.

*Discuss:* When you look at the future, where do you place your hope?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, help us to rely on you above all things that our lives may find hope and peace through Christ Jesus, the one who rules over all with grace and mercy. 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 help someone who is anxious about the future?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 16:7 says, *"I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me."* When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with good things that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. Spend a few moments reading or listening to God's Word before you go to sleep. Use a storybook Bible for bedtime stories with children. Before turning off the lights, pray the Lord's Prayer.



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)