

AUGUST 14, 2022
TENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Living a life of compassion for those in need.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division
Monday	Jeremiah 23:23-29	God's word is like fire
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Faith in God
Wednesday	Psalms 37:27-33	Trust the Lord
Thursday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Friday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 82	Justice to the weak
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the sabbath

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who want compassion and justice to guide our lives, give us faith and courage to live and speak truth with love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

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

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of justice and mercy give you peace and good courage.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
The People Walk



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:

- When was there a time you felt you were treated unfairly?
- God demands a commitment to justice. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 12:49-56.

There is a history of domestic and global violence. Today's news reminds us that there are still divisions and violence. In this reading, Jesus' call for fire and division represents God's demand—not request—for justice. Biblical faith, both Old and New Testament, reveal a God who cares enough to judge, to condemn, to divide, yes, even to kill Egyptians in the Red Sea to protect God's people. Christianity stands for something. That means it stands against something, too. Jesus can be critical and outraged. He notes that people are able to read the signs of the weather, but what about the signs of discrimination around them? Everyone seems to have their own standards and their own causes. This can blind people who think they know God. Jesus will have none of it. Following Jesus does not permit a blind eye to violence and discrimination, whether it is in the first or twenty-first centuries. The good news is that God's kingdom promises to make all things new.

Discuss: How have you or someone you know experienced discrimination?

Pray: **God of justice, help us to see the times we live in and pursue compassion and fairness for all through Christ Jesus, the one who died that we may live for others. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show compassion for those who are weak and needy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hebrews 12:1 speaks of being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses and encourages us to get rid of everything that slows us down from following Jesus. On a sheet of paper write a list of things people do or say that do not show ways Jesus would like us to act towards others. Some examples: belittling or bullying others, lying about something, stealing, or cheating. Take a moment to read over your list and then crumble it up and throw it away. Then pray:

Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we are unkind and thoughtless about the needs of others; help us to follow you in love. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org