

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Real life is filled with faith and generosity.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man
Monday	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Judgment for a self-indulgent life
Tuesday	1 Timothy 6:6-19	The good fight of faith
Wednesday	Proverbs 11:24-25	Be generous
Thursday	Luke 21:1-4	The widow's offering
Friday	Acts 20:32-35	Paul says goodbye to the church
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Luke 17:5-10	Faith the size of a mustard seed

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [the rich] are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to be sensitive to the hurts and pains of others that we may lead content lives, generous with what we have for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to your service. And keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. In Jesus name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who watches over the needy, watch over you with generosity. (Psalm 146:9)



SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O God of Love,
O King of Peace*



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 have you helped a stranger in need? What did you do?
- What gets in the way of reaching out to others with compassion and generosity?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 16:19-31.

Why could the rich man not see and respond to the poor and diseased Lazarus who lies at the rich man's gate? What is it about consumption and wealth (v. 19) that can lead to complacency and a lack of concern at the demise of others? Amos calls it out and judges the people of Judah who were not grieved by the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel (Amos 6:6). Like the rich man, the people of Judah did not seem to care about the destruction of Israel. The people were content with their life of leisure. The rich man in Luke could not see—or at least care about—the needs of Lazarus nor, it appears, to “listen to Moses and the prophets” (v. 31). The good news is that what is needed for life and faith is not wealth but the word of God that is already in front of us. A living faith receives and responds to God's message of compassion and care for the needy. Jesus embodies and lifts up a life that is able to show the love that the rich man was unable to provide Lazarus. The rich man's insensitivity created a loss for him as well as for Lazarus.

Discuss: How does God open your eyes to see the needs of others?

Pray: **Loving God, give us eyes of faith to see the needs of our neighbor and the desire to care for others as you care for us each and every day through Christ our Lord. 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 help and care for someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Giving is a response to God's generosity. Walk around your house and look in closets and drawers. Make a list of things you no longer use or need. Think or talk about who may appreciate and need them and consider taking them to organizations who can give them to those in need. Conclude your time reflecting on the theme for this week, and then pray:
Lord, fill me with faith and generosity. Amen.

