

OCTOBER 16, 2022  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Do not lose heart.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 18:1-8</b>	<b>Parable of the persistent widow</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 32:22-31</b>	<b>God renames Jacob</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Timothy 3:14–4:5</b>	<b>Paul’s instruction to Timothy</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 31:19-24</b>	<b>A prayer for protection</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ephesians 3:7-13</b>	<b>Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Hebrews 12:1-12</b>	<b>The example of Jesus</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 121</b>	<b>Assurance of God’s protection</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 18:9-14</b>	<b>A Pharisee and tax collector pray</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Dear God, for those lives torn by injustice and pain, give us faith to pray always and to trust in you, through Jesus Christ, the one who comes in glory at the end of time. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of this food and that you neither slumber nor sleep but watch diligently over us to keep us safe. Amen. (Psalm 121:4-8)

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

May the Lord Jesus keep watch over you and protect you always.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Let My Heart Be  
Good Soil*



### 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:

- Talk or think about a time when you or someone you know faced something that was unfair.
- What gives you courage to go on when unfairness seems to win time and again?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus is telling us in this parable: “Keep the faith; keep praying for the reign of God; don’t become complacent with an unjust world.” This parable of the persistent widow is a good example of why we should not use Jesus’ parables as analogies comparing God to us. We certainly don’t want to see God as an unjust judge. The point is that if even an unjust judge can give in to the persistence of the widow, how much more will our merciful God listen to and respond to our cries for help. What begins as a call to pray constantly, ends as a focus on faith itself. When Christ, the Son of Man returns, will he see faith on earth? Faith is expressed as a constant prayer to God for the justice and mercy of God.

*Discuss:* When is a time you have prayed without ceasing for God’s justice and mercy?

*Pray:* **Come, Lord Jesus, come into our world and into our lives that we may pray without ceasing for your power and justice and not lose heart. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week and the theme, who do you know that is “losing heart” and how can you pray for them?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Genesis 32:28 God changes Jacob’s name to *Israel* which means, “you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” We don’t often see our lives of faith as wrestling with God, yet that is exactly what God honors and expects from us. This week, question God in your prayers, asking, “Lord, how come . . . ?” Let this questioning of God’s intent be an example of building a strong and trusting relationship with God. Conclude by praying 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)