

OCTOBER 9, 2022  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God's wisdom strengthens the powerless.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 17:11-19</b>	<b>One leper gives thanks to God</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c</b>	<b>Elisha heals Naaman</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Timothy 2:8-15</b>	<b>A good soldier of Christ Jesus</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 46:1-7</b>	<b>God is our mighty fortress</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>James 3:13-18</b>	<b>Wisdom from above</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:27-31</b>	<b>The Lord gives strength</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 111</b>	<b>Praise God for wonderful works</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 18:1-8</b>	<b>Parable of the persistent widow</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.*

**Psalm 111:10 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of power and might, may your wisdom that lifts up the powerless and humbles the powerful guide us each day of our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food; give us wise hearts to know that all good things come from your goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.

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

May you trust in God and receive a wise heart.



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OCTOBER 9, 2022  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*On Eagle's Wings*



### 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:

- How would you describe someone who is wise?
- How is the wisdom of God different than the wisdom of people in leadership?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c.

How God chooses to act stands in stark contrast to how we act toward one another. In ancient times, people bowed down to the powerful, barely able to look up or speak. Naaman, who is an important and powerful leader from Aram (Syria), has leprosy. The king of Israel fears Naaman's position and threatening presence. However, a slave girl who was captured out of the land of Israel speaks with a voice worth hearing. Her simple and honest words lead Naaman to Elisha, the great prophet of Israel, to be healed of his leprosy. Elisha, who doesn't even bother to address Naaman in person, provides a simple and easy request for Naaman to be cleansed in the River Jordan. This humiliates and infuriates Naaman's pride. While Naaman is offended, his own servants convince him to do as requested, and he is healed. The God of Israel is then acknowledged for the greatness due the Lord, and nameless and powerless servants deliver the wisdom and power of God.

*Discuss:* How has the wisdom of God spoken to you from an unlikely source?

*Pray:* **God of the powerless, help us to rejoice in your wisdom and strength that speaks and works through the lives of those often overlooked and unseen, through Christ Jesus our Healer. 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 honor those often not recognized for their abilities and wisdom?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one of them thanked Jesus. (Luke 17:11-19). As God's people, we are called to count our blessings each day and give thanks to God. Take time this week in your home, at work, or at school to say thanks to others who have been kind, thoughtful, and contributed positively to your life or the lives of others. Then pray: **Dear God, you have blessed us with so much. We ask that we be given thankful hearts, through our Lord Jesus. Amen.**



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)