

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Fight the good fight of faith.

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 22:2-16	The value of a good reputation
Thursday	Ephesians 2:1-10	From death to life
Friday	2 Corinthians 8:8-15	Generous giving
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

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Timothy 6:12 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, rich in mercy, feed us and strengthen us in faith that we may tell of your goodness and act with kindness to all. In Jesus' name, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, we're so blessed with the food you've sent. May we be thankful and content. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord open your eyes to see; may the Lord watch over you now and always. (Psalm 146:8-10)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK



*O Master, Let Me
Walk with You*

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some of your favorite topics you like to talk about with your friends and family?
- Do you ever talk about the Christian faith with others? Why or why not?
- How does talking about your faith in Jesus make a difference in your life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 16:19-31.

The Christian faith makes a difference in what we do, what we value, and what we see around us. The rich man in our story enjoyed himself immensely while Lazarus was outside his door starving and covered in sores. Even the dogs saw Lazarus and licked his wounds, but the rich man appeared to see and do nothing. In the parable that shows Lazarus in heaven with Abraham and the rich man in torment in Hades, the rich man wants help for himself and for his family. The help they needed was in the faith extolled in the Bible, the message of Moses and the prophets. If they cannot find comfort and direction from the Bible, even seeing someone rise from the dead will not help. God's persistent care of us, fully shown in Jesus' life, death and resurrection, has always been made known. To trust in the resurrection is to trust in the God of justice and mercy, a faith we are called to live each day. Where do you see a Lazarus in need near you? How does Jesus' resurrection lead you to a new way of life?

Pray: **Almighty God, you call us to a life of action and to confess our trust in your goodness. Help us to fight the good fight of faith in word and deed, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Psalms 146 offers praise for God's help. Communities of faith strive to serve others with justice and mercy. It is through God's help that they "execute justice for the oppressed and give food to the hungry" (v. 7). How does your faith community help the needy and feed the hungry? How can you be part of those efforts?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Paul encourages us to "do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share" (1 Timothy 6:18). It is a Christian tradition to give generously to others. Find a large box and label it, "The Generosity Box". Take a walk around your home and look in closets and drawers. Fill the box with items you no longer need or use. When it is full, decide where you will donate the items. Fill the box again in the future as a continued practice of giving to others.



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