

JULY 30, 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Bible offers Jesus' disciples both old and new insights.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	Philippians 3:7-11	Nothing compares
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	1 Timothy 6:17-19	Lay up treasure
Thursday	1 Peter 2:4-10	Christ is a precious stone
Friday	1 Kings 3:5-12	The Lord makes Solomon wise
Saturday	Proverbs 2:1-8	Hidden treasure
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So he told them, "Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom." **Matthew 13:52 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, bless us with your wisdom so that we may understand your word and live with faith, hope, and love each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Our hands we fold, our heads we bow. For food and drink, we thank God now. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's Spirit and eternal word shine on you, give light to your path, guide your steps, and fill you with hope as you await the presence of the Lord.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Name someone you think is wise. Explain why you think this is so.
- How can the ancient Scriptures speak so powerfully to each new generation?
- Read Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52. Pick out a favorite parable and talk about what it means to you.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 8:26-39.

This text is filled with comfort, hope, and affirmation. God helps us in our weakness. God's Spirit is present in our praying because we don't know how to pray as we should. No matter which direction we go, God will make it work for good. Nothing can separate us from God's love, nothing. Consider difficult times you have experienced or are experiencing now. Then, reread this passage and reflect on how these words give comfort and hope to you during those difficult times. As you pray, be attentive to how the Spirit of God is part of your praying.

Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



In 1 Kings 3:5-12, Solomon prays for wisdom to deal justly with others as the king of Israel. Justice and mercy are hallmarks of God and the ministry of the church. This week pray for wisdom in your relationships with others that you may be a vessel of God's compassion.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Plan a fun household activity reflecting one of Jesus' parables about the kingdom of God:

1. Plant seeds in indoor pots or in your garden. (Matthew 12:31-32)
2. Bake bread from basic ingredients. (Matthew 13:33)
3. Go on a neighborhood hunt for "treasure" or go geocaching. (Matthew 13:44-46)
4. Go fishing. (Matthew 13:47-48)



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