

AUGUST 7, 2022
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We are strangers and foreigners on earth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven
Monday	Genesis 15:1-6	God's covenant with Abram
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	The meaning of faith
Wednesday	Psalms 33:1-11	Sing praises to the Lord
Thursday	1 Chronicles 29:10-22	David's praises to the Lord
Friday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Saturday	Psalms 33:12-22	Trust only in God
Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [Abraham's descendants] confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. Hebrews 11:13b-14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, direct us to long for what you long for and to thirst for what you promise, that we may treasure what you want for us through Jesus, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of steadfast love, fill our hearts with trust in you, as you fill our bodies with the riches of this meal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love and faithfulness give you peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Blessed Assurance



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:

- What is something you have longed for and desired for some time?
- What is something you desire for the benefit of humanity?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16.

Hebrews 11 is a famous chapter focusing explicitly on the Christian faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (v. 1). The focus is on the future; faith involves a God-given longing filled with God's promises, assurances that lead us not to sit down and rest as though satisfied. Faith longs for something more, a "homeland," a country of heavenly peace that is not yet fully experienced. Therefore, in this life we are foreigners and strangers. We are people on the move, looking ahead, and often not satisfied with things as they are. It is very tempting to settle down and be content with the way things are, but that is not the mindset of the Christian faith. We want God's promises to be fulfilled for all. Until that happens, we join others as travelers on earth longing for something more, something better, nothing less than the perfect peace and mercy of God.

Discuss: What is missing in your life that only God can fulfill?

Pray: **God of promise, help us to be restless for the comfort and security only you can bring, not only for ourselves, but for all your people 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, how can you reach out to a friend or a new neighbor who might feel like a stranger in a group of people?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them. Hebrews 11 lists people from the Bible who showed faith in God. Who have been examples of faith to you and your family? Write a thank you card to these people thanking them for their example. One of the greatest gifts we can give to our children is deep and meaningful connections with other witnesses to the faith. Ask adults who are friends and family to share their own faith stories with children and youth.



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