

AUGUST 4, 2019
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking 
faith
home

Through baptism you have been raised with Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Wisdom makes sense
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-11	New life in Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-12	A reason for hope
Thursday	Job 42:1-9	Job is humbled
Friday	Colossians 3:12-17	Christ gives meaning to your life
Saturday	Psalms 29:1-12	Don't depend on wealth
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for the gift of baptism that frees me to live my life for others and for the glory of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you for this food and for mouths to eat, help us to serve you with our hands and our feet. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God clothe you with a new life in Christ. (Colossians 3:4, 10)



AUGUST 4, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*We Know that Christ
Is Raised*

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What accomplishments of yours would you like others to know about?
- Why is it that for some people successes in life never seem to be enough?
- Is there comfort in knowing that your real identity is hidden from the world until Christ is revealed in glory? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Colossians 3:1-11.

This passage begins with baptismal imagery (“you have been raised with Christ”) that had already been established in verse 2:12: “When you were buried with him in baptism, you were already raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” It is important to see the baptismal life in chapter three not as a rejection of bodily, earthly things, but affirming the higher calling in this daily life. In baptism we put to death—repent of—the sin that dwells within and among us (vv. 5-9). We are freed from looking for personal glory (v. 3) to care for others in a way that sees all as united in Christ whether “Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free” (v. 11). What a gift of life: in baptism we are freed from focusing on ourselves—from looking for personal recognition in life—so that the whole body can be served with love. Our lives are hidden in Christ yet also visible as a people united in Christ. Therefore, your life is freed from sin so that you are able to serve others. In what ways do you feel freed in Christ to serve others?

Pray: **Gracious Lord Jesus, thank you for freeing me from the need for personal recognition so that I can recognize the need of others. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Luke 12:12-21 we find the parable of the rich fool. “Rich toward God” (v. 21) means we are to be generous with the treasures we have and not keep everything for ourselves. The theme of this reading is, “Don’t be greedy, give to the needy!” Begin a tradition of giving up some of the money you might spend going out to eat or to a movie and save it to give to a charity at the end of the year.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 49:1-12 discusses the folly of trusting in riches as eventually we leave our wealth to others whether we want to or not. Sharing with others our time, talents, treasures, and caring is a Christian tradition. Learning to give to others begins in the home. Place grapes or cookies in a bowl. How many would you need to be satisfied? The foolish rich man would want them all! How about you? Think this week about how you nurture an atmosphere of sharing and giving in your home.

