

**AUGUST 16, 2020  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**



*God's saving work is for all people.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 15:1-28</b>	<b>A woman's faith</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 56:1-8</b>	<b>God's saving power is everywhere</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32</b>	<b>God saves Jews and Gentiles</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Genesis 45:1-15</b>	<b>Joseph and his brothers</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 133</b>	<b>Living together in peace</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Matthew 28:16-20</b>	<b>The Great Commission</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 67</b>	<b>Tell the nations to praise God</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 16:13-20</b>	<b>Peter's confession of Christ</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. **Psalm 67:12 (NRSV)**

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

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

God of the nations, we thank you for your mercy and grace that is meant not only for those we know and love but for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Gracious God, we thank you for this food and for all those who have planted, harvested, transported, processed, and prepared it for us this day. Amen.

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

May God's face shine upon you, be gracious to you, and bless you. (Psalm 67:1)



**AUGUST 16, 2020**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*All Are Welcome*



**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:

- Think or tell about a time you went to or met someone from a foreign country.
- What do you learn by meeting people from different cultures?
- It is easy to overlook how God's grace and mercy is not just for ourselves but for all people. How can you extend kindness to someone of a culture that is foreign to you?

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Matthew 15:21-26.

The Canaanite woman is central to this story for many reasons. She is a woman and she is a foreigner, both good reasons for Jesus not to talk to her and especially not to address her plea before addressing the needs of the Jewish people, "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24). This woman is also a critical figure because her plea for help changes Jesus' response to her (v. 28). It is not easy to understand how this woman seems to teach and change Jesus, but she does. The result, however, is clear: Jesus' ministry, like that of the God of the Old Testament (see Psalm 67) is for all the nations, not just the sons and daughters of Abraham. This story lifts up the essential mission of Jesus and the church of all generations. It is the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20. Directed by Jesus, we are to make disciples of all nations, not just our ethnic group, not just "our people," and especially not just our nation. With whom might Jesus be calling you to share God's love and mercy?

*Pray:* **Generous God, help us to see the breadth and depth of your love for all people in the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SERVICE**



The words we say to others can sometimes be hurtful. In Matthew 15:11, Jesus is warning us to be careful of what you say, "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles". Is there someone you know who needs to hear kind, caring words, rather than hurtful ones? Take time to say loving and encouraging words to that person by writing a note, calling, or sending an email.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



The theme this week is, "God's saving work is for all people." Psalm 67 is a song of praise to God and a reminder of God's continual blessings on us. Write the words from Psalm 67:3 on a piece of paper and place it near your bedside so that when you rise and when you lie down, you can recite: **"Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."**



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)