

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's promises overcome God's righteous judgment.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin
Monday	Exodus 32:7-14	Moses pleads for the people
Tuesday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for mercy
Wednesday	James 5:13-16	The prayer of faith
Thursday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Friday	Ephesians 5:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-10	A prayer for forgiveness
Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I [the Apostle Paul] am the foremost. **1 Timothy 1:15 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of divine justice, we thank you for remembering your promise of mercy and forgiveness and bringing us back to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as we need this gift of food to survive, help us always to remember that we need your love to survive as well. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who remembers you with love bless you with peace and joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



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:

- Some people feel that when something bad happens, it is God's judgment. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to know that God's mercy endures beyond God's judgment?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Exodus 32:7-14.

There is plenty of wrath, divine repentance, even humor in this Old Testament Story. God wants to destroy the people who have turned away to worship a golden calf and won't even acknowledge them as God's people. God refers to them as Moses' people, the people whom Moses led out of Egypt. Moses refutes this and says they are God's people and God led them out of Egypt. Moses stands as a prophet speaking not to the people about God's word, but to God about God's promises that go back to Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Jacob). Fortunately, Moses wins the debate and God repents, turning from the divine anger planned for the obstinate and unfaithful people. God saves the people by not destroying them. What is at stake? God's passion and mercy for the people does battle (through Moses) and wins the day by not letting God's judgment get the last word. Thanks be to God for promises to us that are from everlasting to everlasting.

Discuss: What do you find surprising about God's actions in this reading?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, we thank you that you know our weaknesses and failings and yet love us still through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help and encourage others who feel the weight of their regrets?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Luke 15:1-10 Jesus tells parables about the lost being found. Our sin is a condition of being lost and apart from God. God rejoices when, through faith in Christ, we, as the lost, are found and restored to a relationship with God. Hide chocolate coins or other candies and have others find them. After the treats are found, talk about the joy of finding them and then about God's joy at searching for and finding us. **Pray: Thank you, God, for searching for us when we stray from you. Thank you for finding us and forgiving us. Amen.**



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