



The Word @ Home

Pentecost 23
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

The Point

God does not abandon us, even when we suffer.

Key Verse

“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.”

– Luke 21:9

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Do Not Be Afraid

Jesus warns his disciples about the destruction of the temple and the difficulties of the future using apocalyptic imagery. He advises them to not be afraid. He tells them that they will be arrested and persecuted because they are following him, but this will be an opportunity to testify about their faith, for which Jesus will give them words. Some will be betrayed by family members and even put to death, but God is with them.

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

God promises an end to those who are arrogant and do evil but grants healing and blessing to those who revere God.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

The writer commands the readers to avoid laziness and work diligently, likely both employment and ministry, and to “not weary in doing what is right.”

Seasons & Festivals

Today is the 23rd and final Sunday after Pentecost that uses green. Green is used to indicate our growth in faith, and this season after Pentecost is a time in which we focus on the teachings and ministry of Christ. Some congregations use differing shades of green throughout the season, using a lighter green in summer and a darker green in fall. As we near the end of the season after Pentecost, we prepare to celebrate Christ the King Sunday next week, and then move into the new church year with the season of Advent.

Discussion Starters

- What frightens you?
- Share one thing that helps you remember that God is always with you.
- Share the favorite thing that you have learned in these classes so far.

Prayer of the Week

God, sometimes we are afraid. Help us to remember that you are with us. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Luke 21:5-19 Do not be afraid.
Look up phobias on the Internet. Take turns trying to guess the fear.

Monday

Read Ephesians 4:25–5:2 Speak truthfully.
Think of one time that you told a lie. Pray quietly, asking God for forgiveness.

Tuesday

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1 Not everything is beneficial.
Name some actions that are legal or within the rules but that you should not do as you follow Jesus.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 141 Pray for righteousness.
Burn incense or a scented candle as you listen to these words.

Thursday

Read Psalm 46 God is our refuge and our strength.
Listen to “Psalm 46: Lord of Hosts” by Shane & Shane (videos available online).

Friday

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 Praise to God for a living hope.
Make a list of things that you cannot see but know are there.

Saturday

Read Luke 18:15-17 Jesus welcomes the little children.
Search the Internet for art depicting this passage. Which is your favorite? Why?



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
May you feel God's presence.