

THE LIVING
WORD
OF
THE SEASON AFTER
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

November 13 - November 19



SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 28

Isaiah 65 paints a stunning vision that almost defies imagination: God is making everything—everything new. A new heaven and a new earth, where joy flows like a river, and mourning and crying are echoes of the past. Life is full and long, enemies are at peace, wolves and lambs coexist, and the work of our hands is blessed. Here we glimpse God’s ultimate refusal to let the brokenness of our world have the final say.

The short song of Isaiah 12 bursts with gratitude and with trust: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” The imagery is striking: a life nourished by God, a soul brimming over with praise. We are reminded that salvation is not a distant idea—it is God’s refreshment, flowing into our ordinary days, transforming work, relationships, and our complicated human hearts. Here, praise and trust are fused into one. To drink from God’s well is to find courage for today and hope for tomorrow.

The prophet Malachi warns of a day when the arrogant will face justice, and yet the sun of righteousness will rise for those who fear the Lord. There is judgment, but also light and healing for those who cling to God. Malachi invites us into a patient faith, one that remembers God’s justice is also mercy, and that even in the harshest seasons, the promise of restoration breaks through the horizon.

The psalmist calls for a new song of praise: “Let the rivers clap and the hills ring out!” Creation itself celebrates when God acts to redeem the world. It’s a reminder that worship is not just about our feelings; it is the way we align ourselves with the story God is telling in the world.

Even when the news is hard, the psalm insists: God's redemption is real, active, and worth singing about.

Paul's words to the Thessalonians are urgent and practical. Faithfulness requires work, persistence, and a refusal to drift into idleness. But his insistence is pastoral, not legalistic. Working is not about earning God's favor but living faithfully, caring for neighbors, and embodying God's kingdom in our daily rhythms.

Jesus speaks plainly in Luke 21, telling us the world is unstable. Temples fall, nations shake, persecution comes. But he also offers a counterintuitive promise—that endurance matters more than comfort. The Spirit will guide, and even the smallest act of faithful witness is never wasted.

Taken together, these passages seem to form a thread: God's renewal is coming, and our role is to live faithfully in the meantime. We praise, we work, we trust, and we endure—not as naive optimists, but as faithful participants in a story that is bigger than our fear, larger than our failure, and deeper than our despair. ***God is making all things new, and even now, we catch glimpses of heaven breaking into our midst.***



FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION

As the disciples marveled at the Temple's grandeur, Jesus gave them a dose of reality. Deception is coming. False messiahs will try to lead you astray. You will be left to defend yourselves. Betrayal is coming from your loved ones. Sunday's Gospel text, Luke 21:5-19, corrects our expectations of triumph.

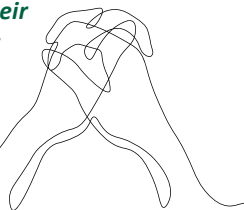
His words of warning must have been jarring to his closest followers. Surely their Messiah, this same Jesus, possessed God's power to create a better outcome. But triumph is not the path Jesus predicted or promised for His followers. Instead, He warned them about deception, betrayal, and temptations to fall away.

The Christian life will be hard, not easy. The journey will be rough, not smooth. The people you will try to reach with love and service will resist and hate you. As you show yourself to be friendly, people will hate you. Why? Jesus says, "Everyone will hate you because of me." Because of me. On account of Jesus. We must never forget that our Lord was despised, rejected, and crucified.

Many of us today expect the Christian life to be one of ease and prosperity. At the first sign of suffering and hardship, we run away. We question why God allows difficulties into our lives. But Jesus predicted hardship and suffering for His first disciples, and the remainder of the New Testament suggests the path of discipleship will be the same for us.

So what are we to do? Complain? Avoid hardship? Run away? Jesus encouraged His disciples to "Stand firm" (v.19). It is in the act of standing firm, which could lead to suffering and death, that we win life!

Is there somewhere in your life where you are facing resistance and hostility because of your relationship with Jesus? Don't run from it. Stand firm. You are in the good company of disciples who gave their lives to preserve their testimony to the Gospel. You are in the hands of the One who overcame death and has the power to give you eternal life.





SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday	Isaiah 12; Isaiah 57:14-21; Romans 1:18-25
Friday	Isaiah 12; Isaiah 59:1-15a; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
Saturday	Isaiah 12; Isaiah 59:15b-21; Luke 17:20-37
Sunday	Isaiah 12; Isaiah 65:17-25; Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
Monday	Psalm 76; Isaiah 60:17-22; Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Tuesday	Psalm 76; Isaiah 66:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
Wednesday	Psalm 76; Isaiah 66:14-24; Matthew 23:37-24:14

Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

The Morning Liturgy

Opening Scripture

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Habakkuk 2:20

Opening Prayer *(based on Psalm 51)*

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of Your saving help again and sustain me with Your bountiful Spirit. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading *(read Psalm and Gospel text here)*

Period of Silence

Confessing Our Faith *(Apostles' Creed)*

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect *(Proper 28)*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

A Midday Prayer

Blessed Savior, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to You and be saved; for Your mercies' sake. *Amen.*

An Early Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know You as You are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of Your love. *Amen.*

A Bedtime Confession and Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name.

Amen.

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



