

THE LIVING
WORD
OF
THE SEASON AFTER
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

October 16 - October 22



SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 24

This week's Scriptures form a single thread of promise: God is faithful, and He calls us to hold fast in faith.

Jeremiah declares God is making a new covenant, written deep within us. Even when life feels fragmented or weary, God is planting and sowing. His work is not finished. What He writes in our hearts will endure. We live in a time when many hearts feel fractured, distracted, even numb. Yet here is the hope: God Himself is not finished with us. He is sowing and planting in our lives, and what He writes will not be erased. His mercy is not external, imposed from outside, it's internal, transforming us from within.

The psalmist sings of this: "Oh, how I love Your law! It is sweeter than honey to my mouth." In a bitter world, the Word of God becomes perfect nourishment, strength, delight. It steadies our steps when everything else seems uncertain.

In Genesis, Jacob shows us what this looks like in the struggle of faith. Through the long night at the river, he wrestles until daybreak, and he leaves both wounded and blessed. The limp he carries is not a defeat but a sign of encounter—proof that God meets us even in our wrestling.

Psalms 121 gives us a companion truth: that the same God who wrestles with us is the One who keeps us. He neither slumbers nor sleeps. Our going out and our coming in are guarded by His watchful care, now and forever.

Paul, near the end of his life, urges Timothy to continue in the Scriptures and endure. He warns of times when people will drift from sound teaching. We know what those days feel like. Yet Paul's charge still holds: cling to what breathes with the Spirit of God. Stay rooted. Keep going.

And Jesus speaks of a widow who refuses to stop knocking. Her persistence is her faith. If even an unjust judge can be moved by perseverance, how much more will the living God hear those who cry to Him day and night? Jesus ends with a haunting question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Faith. That is the golden thread that binds these readings together. Faith that God is writing His covenant within us. Faith that His word is sweet and sustaining. Faith that He is present in our wrestling. Faith that He keeps us through every moment. Faith that clings to His truth when others drift. Faith that prays without ceasing.

Beloved, these are difficult times, but the God who writes, who wrestles, who keeps, who calls, who hears—this God is with us. He will not forsake us. He is faithful. And He will finish what He has begun. So, let us not give up. Let us hold fast. Let us keep praying. For in the end, it is not only that we are found faithful to Him, but that He is and always will be faithful to us.



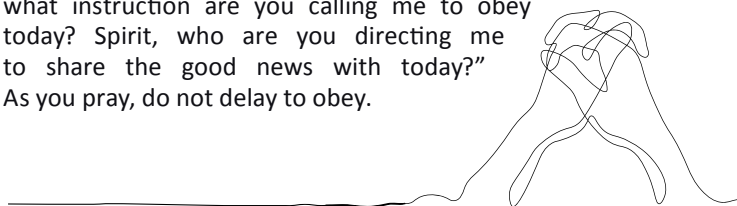
FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION

The truth within the story and instructions of Scripture are meant to be internalized, applied, and shared. As we follow Jesus through the Gospel of Luke, we see this in flesh. The promise that God gave in Jeremiah 31:33 is seen in Jesus. The law was written in His mind and on His heart and expressed through His life, death, and resurrection.

In the same way, God intends for disciples of Jesus to internalize the truth so that our every impulse is directed by His grace and mercy. But this is not accidental or instant, it is developed intentionally and over time as the disciple applies the truth of Jesus to their life. *Many people live stuck because they fail to be corrected and trained by the “God-breathed” and “useful” truth of scripture (2 Tim. 3:16). Many people live uncorrected and untrained because they do not take time to meditate on what Jesus said.*

In the gospel reading for the week, Jesus asks: “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). In marriage, faith is expressed through lifelong service to your spouse. In the disciple’s relationship with God, faith is expressed through love of God and others. One of the best ways to love another person is to tell them the truth in love. The truth God has revealed through Scripture and through His Son is meant to be shared with the world He so loves. If Jesus returns today, will He find us internalizing, applying, and sharing the good news of His truth?

This invites the disciple to prayerfully ask: “Father, what truth do you want me to internalize today? Jesus, what instruction are you calling me to obey today? Spirit, who are you directing me to share the good news with today?” As you pray, do not delay to obey.





SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday	Psalm 119:97-104; Jeremiah 26:1-15; Acts 17:22-34
Friday	Psalm 119:97-104; Jeremiah 26:16-24; 2 Timothy 2:14-26
Saturday	Psalm 119:97-104; Jeremiah 31:15-26; Mark 10:46-52
Sunday	Psalm 119:97-104; Jeremiah 31:27-34; Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
Monday	Psalm 129; Jeremiah 38:14-28; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 129; Jeremiah 39:1-18; James 5:7-12
Wednesday	Psalm 129; Jeremiah 50:1-7, 17-20; Luke 22:39-46

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

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

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 24)*

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ You have revealed Your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of Your mercy, that Your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.



A Midday Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You said to Your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:” Regard not our sins, but the faith of Your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You live and reign, now and forever. *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.



