

NOVEMBER 18, 2018  
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord of All Hopefulness*



*Disciples are to be hopeful during difficult times.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:1-8	The signs of the end of the age
Monday	Daniel 12:1-3	The resurrection of the dead
Tuesday	Hebrews 10:11-25	A call to perseverance
Wednesday	1 Samuel 26:21-25	David spares Saul's life
Thursday	James 1:2-8	Faith and wisdom
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 16	A life centered on the Lord
Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the King of truth

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Lord, you have been faithful to us. Help us to be people of confidence and hope who worship you in home and congregation. Amen. (Hebrews 10:23, 25)

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Lord, you fill us with joy when we are with you; and your blessings to us never end. Thank you, God! Amen. (Psalm 16:11)

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

May the Lord give you a glad heart that your soul may rejoice and your whole body may rest secure. (Psalm 16:9)



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### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What are some fearful or hard-to-understand experiences going on in the world or in your life today?
- What are you tempted to do when you experience fearful or difficult times?
- How does your Christian faith help you face difficult situations in life?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 13:1-8.

The Mount of Olives gave a wonderful place to view the splendor of the temple. It was a glorious looking building, one that gave confidence to the Jewish people. However, Jesus said it would be destroyed. That happened when the Roman army devastated Jerusalem between the years 66-70 AD. The early Christians who had been Jews, could easily see this as a sign of the end and Christ's return. Jesus points out that there will be many such events, including wars and natural disasters. While terrible things happen around us, we are to keep our focus on Jesus and not the prediction for his Second Coming. As Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us, we are to continue to live with "love and good deeds" and to meet together and encourage one another in the faith. How does your faith help you support family and friends during difficult times? How do others encourage you?

*Pray: Lord, you have been faithful to us. Help us to be people of confidence and hope who worship you in home and congregation. Amen.*

### SERVICE



Encouraging others is important to our daily health and our Christian faith. We all experience discouragement. The Christian faith allows us to be honest with the challenges and difficulties around us and at the same time know that current trials and tribulations do not get the last word. Find ways to support someone going through a difficult time. Pray for them and with them.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalm 16:7 says, "I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me." When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with good things that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. Spend a few moments reading or listening to God's Word before you go to sleep this week. Parents, use the Bible or a storybook Bible for bedtime stories with children. Memorize or recite Psalm 4:8, "I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety."



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)