

JULY 31, 2022
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

Our lives are renewed daily in Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Wisdom makes sense
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-11	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old life and the new
Thursday	Psalm 19:7-13	The wonders of God
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:16-18	Living by faith
Saturday	Psalm 49:1-12	Do not depend on wealth
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and Eternal God, we thank you that you bring us new life each day, a life that one day will be fully revealed with Christ in glory. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every blessing, including this gift of food today, we give you thanks, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of Christ lead you into each new day with hope.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Chief of Sinners
Though I Be*



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:

- What is something most people do not know about you?
- How would you describe to someone else a life in Christ?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Colossians 3:1-11.

This is a beautiful passage that brings comfort and encouragement for a life in Christ. God sees what the world cannot see. Our lives are hidden in the grace and mercy of Christ. How wonderful is that? Our true identities will not always be hidden: *"When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory"* (v. 4). The scripture reading begins, *"So if you have been raised with Christ."* It really means *"since you have been raised with Christ."* There is no conditional "if" implied, but an absolute "since." Because of God in Christ, we have a beautiful and joyous life that will be fully revealed one day. In the meantime, we live believing this. We continue to *"put to death"* those behaviors and attitudes that are inconsistent with a life in Christ. We already live the resurrection life, being renewed each day confessing our shortcomings, our sin, and receiving grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Wow!

Discuss: What does it mean to you to know that through the resurrection your life is renewed each day?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to trust that our future is filled with goodness and mercy and that our lives are being renewed each day, through Christ our 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 serve others with grace and mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Being *"rich towards God"* (Luke 12:21) means growing in generosity toward those who are in need. Giving regularly to God's work in and through the church is a practice for keeping our accumulation of earthly things in check. Setting aside a portion of our income for giving to those in need reminds us that God is the giver of all we have. Think or talk about how you determine your financial giving to others and why it is important to give in this way. Encourage children by teaching them about: Giving – for the needs and benefit of others; Saving – to reach a goal, instead of instant gratification; and, Spending – making wise purchasing decisions.