

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Confess your sins and pray for one another.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin
Monday	Numbers 11:4-29	Moses and the seventy elders
Tuesday	James 5:13-20	The power of prayer
Wednesday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Final instructions
Friday	Romans 8:18-27	Future glory for God's people
Saturday	Psalms 19:7-14	The wonders of God
Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* James 5:16 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of heaven and earth, guide us in our words and actions that we may sing your praises and love all those in our care. In Christ we pray, amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, as you fill us with this meal, fill our hearts with a desire for your message of divine love and faithfulness. Amen.

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

May the truth and beauty of God's word revive your soul and make you wise. (Psalm 19:7-11)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Send Me, Lord*



### 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 have you heard lately that filled you with joy?
- What have you heard recently that made you sad?
- In what ways can you communicate a message of healing, joy, and peace this week?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* James 5:13-20.

James is concerned about speech. Speech that is not of God leads to division, chaos, hatred, and death. Speech that is of God brings peace, purity, and gentleness (James 3:16-18). It has been argued that talk and dialogue on social media has not helped humanity. There are times it has caused division, chaos, and hate rather than peace, purity, and gentleness. In James 5, prayer, confession, and songs of praise are listed as worthy ways to speak. James is concerned about the misuse of the human tongue and of human speech. James is also concerned that Christians live up to their calling and communicate God's healing, forgiveness, and peace to others. Let's join James in the Christian movement that seeks the good, the true, and the beautiful for all through faith in Christ. How can you use speech, written or oral, for the good of all and to give praise to God?

*Pray:* God of healing and peace, use our words so that truth, hope, and healing may reign through Christ Jesus. Amen.

### SERVICE

Access to social media can make everyone feel important. Seeing our own words can make us feel powerful and influential. The Letter of James knows that words are powerful but not always helpful. How can you use a social media platform or other means to offer words of prayer, praise, a song, or a Bible verse to bless others this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 9:38-40, Jesus' disciples complain that someone was casting out demons in Jesus' name but was not following Jesus' disciples. Sadly, it has been the case throughout our history that people who follow Jesus in a way different "from us" are condemned. This week, take time to list Christian traditions that are different from yours. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for their faith and witness in the world in the name of Jesus Christ.



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)