

JULY 14, 2024
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's goodness is worthy of praise and thanksgiving.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist
Monday	Amos 7:7-15	Vision of setting a plumb line
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Thanksgiving for blessings
Wednesday	Psalms 150	Praise for God's greatness
Thursday	1 Chronicles 16:23-27	David's psalm of thanksgiving
Friday	Romans 2:1-11	God's judgment is fair
Saturday	Psalms 85:8-13	God speaks peace to the people
Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory, we praise you for your mercy that embraces us with hope through the work of Christ and for our adoption as your children through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food that reminds us of your abundant goodness and your eternal care for us, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love and faithfulness of God embrace you with peace. (Psalm 85:10)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow*



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 that inspires you and fills you with joy?
- How does God's love for you in Christ fill you with peace and joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 1:3-14.

Ephesians 1 is filled with praise and thanksgiving for Jesus Christ's saving work within the mystery of the will of God. God's wisdom goes far beyond our human ability to grasp. Therefore, what we can do is simply acknowledge that we are the recipients of a great inheritance for a reality that goes beyond human history. As an act of God's glory and grace, our God takes us back, despite our broken lives and forgives us—receives us back—through Christ. We who believe this message have received and trusted this good news as those who have been chosen and adopted. We are destined, marked, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. This text overflows with praise for the glory of God's ways meant for us and for all that God has created. The words fill us with awe and joy for who God is and who Christ is for us. Sometimes it is good to simply fill our thoughts with the glory and praise due to our God in Christ.

Discuss: What words describe your feelings when you imagine God's goodness to you and to all that God has created?

Pray: **God of power and glory, we thank you for this opportunity to contemplate your goodness that reaches out to us with mercy and grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show praise to God through Christ as an act of kindness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Shalom is a Hebrew word that means peace and was used as a greeting or a blessing. Psalm 85:8 speaks of peace, "Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts." Draw a heart and write the word peace inside. Think or talk about what God may be saying to you in this verse.

Pray: **Lord God, you promise peace to those who are faithful. Help us to turn our hearts to you. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org