

NOVEMBER 19, 2017  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking+ faith home

*Live boldly in faith.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Luke 19:11-26	A king and his servants
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:7-13	Using our gifts
Wednesday	Romans 12:3-18	We have different gifts
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	The coming of the Lord
Friday	Ephesians 4:11-24	Christ's gifts to the church
Saturday	Psalms 90	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Wonderful!" his master replied, "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!" **Matthew 25:21 (CEV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Almighty and Everlasting God, you search our hearts and know our needs. Give us faith filled with good deeds. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

For food and drink and happy days we offer up our thanks and praise. In serving others, Lord, may we show our thankfulness to Thee. Amen.

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

Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope, and love, this day and always.  
(1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8)



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Send Me, Jesus*



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you were afraid of taking a risk.
- Tell about a time you took a risk.
- The parable of the talents encourages us to take risks with the abundant love of God. How would you like to be bold with your faith?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 25:14-30.

The parable of the talents encourages us to trust God and live boldly. The rewards for such faith will be great in the kingdom of God. Conversely, faith is not to be squandered and buried. The people of God have been entrusted with the greatest treasure imaginable, God's saving love. It is a sobering thought to waste such a treasure. It is the call of all the faithful to risk it all for the sake of God's kingdom of love and happiness. Talk about the treasured gift of God's love and how to share it with others. Then pray:

**Dear God, give us courage and confidence to live daily with faith, hope, and love in Christ. Amen.**

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

## SERVICE



1 Thessalonians 5:11 states, "That's why you must encourage and help each other, just as you are already doing." Make the most of every opportunity to give encouragement to others. Think of a person you would like to support and give them a call, text them, or send them a note.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 the Apostle Paul encourages the community and supports their ongoing efforts to build up one another. Spend time this week affirming and encouraging one another. Finish the following sentences:

1. **One thing I really appreciate about you is . . .**
2. **Something I would like to encourage you in is . . .**
3. **I felt proud of you when . . .**

Then, bless each other by using "A Blessing to Give" from this *Taking Faith Home*.



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)