

NOVEMBER 11, 2018
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

God brings justice to those in need.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering
Monday	1 Kings 17:8-16	Elijah helps a widow
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:24-28	Christ's great sacrifice
Wednesday	1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah revives the widow's son
Thursday	James 1:27-28	Look after orphans and widows
Friday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	God defends the weak
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 13:1-8	The signs of the end of the age

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. **Psalm 146:9 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for watching over us. We pray for your care and protection for all who are in need. Amen. (Psalm 146:7-10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Happy are those who hope in God. The Lord feeds the hungry and cares for the poor. Praise the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! Amen. (Psalm 146:1, 5, 7-10)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who watches over the hungry, the stranger, the orphan and widow, watch over you with steadfast love and faithfulness. (Psalm 146:7, 9)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Light Dawns on a
Weary World*

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you felt you were in need of help from others.
- How have you helped someone else who was in need?
- It has been said that Jesus came to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. Would you agree with this? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-16.

Elijah goes to a foreign land where there is a foreign god, Baal, a fertility god, who is worshipped for having control over nature. The LORD (*Yahweh* in Hebrew), Elijah's God, sends Elijah to Zarephath in Sidon to be fed by a starving widow and mother. The woman, who has continued to prepare food down to the last morsel, acknowledges Elijah's God and provides hospitality with food and drink, although it will take all she has. She assumes she and her son will soon die, one way or another, for lack of food. The story lifts up the power of the LORD over a foreign god and the justice of the LORD for the needy. Abundance replaces starvation. Our actions reveal the powers we serve and trust. It is good to review our actions and where we place our confidence and hope. Reflect on your activities and commitments. Do they place trust in the power of governing rules (Psalm 146:3), in being respected and honored by others (Mark 12:38-39), in wealth (Mark 12:41), or is it trust in the LORD, the God of the Scriptures (Psalm 146:5)? The good news is that the God revealed in the Bible—and most fully in Jesus—is the one in whom we place our trust, a trust that does not disappoint. Praise the LORD!

Pray: Lord God, thank you for watching over us. We pray for your care and protection for all who are in need. Amen.

SERVICE

Mark 12:38-44 tells us about a widow who gave two small coins, sometimes called *mites*. A mite box is used to save coins for charitable purposes. Set up a jar or box in your home as your household mite box. Throughout the year, place your loose change in it. Decide on where you will donate what is collected during the year.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

November 11th is observed as Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day or Armistice Day in other countries. It began as a day to observe the end of World War I and the sacrifice of those who participated in the war. It now represents the contributions of all veterans. It is a tradition to observe a minute of silence in memory and honor of those who lost their lives in military conflicts. Gather in your home and observe a minute of silence. Pray for the relatives of those who have lost loved ones in wars, for all those in military service, and for peace between nations.



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