

AUGUST 20, 2017
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking†
faith
home

Let all people praise God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-14	The foreigner, Naaman, is healed
Tuesday	Isaiah 56:1-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Wednesday	Acts 14:19-28	God opens the door to Gentiles
Thursday	Acts 15:1-21	Believing Jews accept the Gentiles
Friday	Romans 11:25-36	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let the nations celebrate with joyful songs, because you judge fairly and guide all nations. **Psalm 67:4 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

O God of the nations, give us joyful songs that we may praise your goodness and mercy forever. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, we give you praise and gratitude for food and drink and family too; and also for a roof above, but most of all for your great love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you and bless you. May God's face shine upon you and give you peace. (Psalm 67:1)



AUGUST 20, 2017
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Praise to You, O God
of Mercy*

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you have felt left out.
- Read Matthew 15:21-28. Jesus and his disciples appear to exclude the Canaanite woman. Does this seem fair to you? Explain.
- Jesus said that the Canaanite woman had great faith. How would you describe the "great faith" of this woman?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 11:1-2a and 29-36.

From Romans 9 to 11, Paul has been dealing with a very difficult question: Has God rejected the Jews, God's chosen people? Paul points out that all people have been disobedient so that God could show mercy to everyone. However, Paul is unable to fully answer his own question and concludes with verses 33-36, a doxology that praises the mystery and unsearchable ways of God. Paul ends by simply trusting the mercy of God. Consider tough questions that you have for God. Bring them as prayer petitions then give thanks to God who is worthy of trust because of God's great mercy.

SERVICE

Initially the Canaanite woman who came to Jesus for help wasn't made very welcome. In today's world with lots of mobility and immigration, it is easy to be defensive about people who are different from us. Make a financial contribution or volunteer on behalf of an organization that seeks to provide safe welcome for immigrants or refugees.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Praising God is an integral part of the Christian faith. Beyond our human understanding, including our understanding of God, the Bible encourages individuals and nations to praise God. Psalm 67 is an example of this directive. This theme is repeated in verses 3 and 5. As part of your daily routine this week, take time to praise God using Psalm 67. Try to commit verses 3 and 5 to memory:

"Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."

