

NOVEMBER 12, 2017  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking†  
faith  
home

*Each day matters.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	Parable of the wise and foolish girls
Monday	Matthew 24:36-44	Keep watch
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 4:5-20	Watch yourselves carefully
Wednesday	Micah 7:1-9	Watching in hope for the Lord
Thursday	Luke 21:29-37	Be always on the watch
Friday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Saturday	Psalms 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen. **Matthew 25:13 (CEV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear Lord, come quickly with your saving grace that our lives may reflect your love and mercy for all you have created. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

For this meal and all God's gifts, let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May you rejoice and be glad for this is the day that the Lord has made. (Psalm 118:24)



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**HYMN OF THE WEEK**  
*Give Me Oil in My Lamp*



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**CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about something in your life that needs to be done now and cannot wait.
- What matters to you today? How does that connect with your Christian faith?
- In the parable of the wise and foolish girls, there is a focus on urgency and being ready. How does your Christian faith call you to a sense of urgency and readiness?

**DEVOTIONS**



Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

Since the time of the New Testament church, there has been a concern to keep the faith alive and "burning" while waiting for Christ's return. We can become complacent and lose the sense of urgency about actively living the Christian faith everyday. In Amos 5:18-24 the prophet pointed out that God was not pleased with a worship life that did not show itself in acts of justice and fairness. Reflect on how the Christian faith matters every day. Pray the following prayer:

**Dear God, give me a living faith that seeks to please you with love, fairness, and care for others each day. Amen**

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

**SERVICE**



The biblical theme of justice is closely associated with care for those in need, especially the poor. Take time this week to do some act of service for someone in need. See your action as a way to say, "Yes," to the justice and fairness of God in the world.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



Reflect this week on how each day in the life of faith matters. Light a candle in remembrance of the parable of the wise and foolish girls. Sing or pray the "Hymn of the Week", *Give Me Oil in My Lamp*. Take time to read Scripture, pray, and care for the needs of others.

