

NOVEMBER 14, 2021
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking 
faith
home

Day and night, God is our protection.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:1-10	The signs of the end of the age
Monday	Daniel 12:1-3	The resurrection of the dead
Tuesday	Hebrews 10:11-25	A call to perseverance
Wednesday	Psalms 91	Assurance of God's protection
Thursday	Philippians 4:10-14	Paul gives thanks
Friday	2 Samuel 22:1-4	David's song of thanksgiving
Saturday	Psalms 16	A life centered on the Lord
Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of peace, when we experience scary times, help us to trust in you and remain dedicated to your word through Christ Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of the harvest, we thank you for the fruit of the earth that feeds us and reminds us of your constant care during our mountain top highs and valley lows. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide your path into joy forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Hymn of Promise



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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:

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know needed protection.
- What do you do and who do you turn to when you feel you need to be protected?
- Psalm 16 gives praise to God for being our great protector. What does that mean to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 13:1-10.

The Gospel of Mark was written shortly after the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by Roman soldiers in 70 A.D. It is easy to imagine that the people wondered if all hope was gone following that jarring event. Had God forsaken the people once and for all? Was this the end of time? Was Christ coming back soon? During times of national or spiritual crisis, it is easy to wonder about such questions, follow after some conspiracy theory, or follow another voice that sounds like the second coming of Christ. Jesus says, in essence, do not be misled, do not make your own predictions about the end. Our task is simple: know in your highs and lows that you are loved and protected by God; give thanks for your neighbors and serve them with joy. Trust God and Christ's reign. During difficult times, how can you show your trust in God?

Pray: **God of the universe, when we experience personal or social disasters, help us to keep our eyes on you and speak with confidence the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



With the advent of social media, many false messages and hopes are offered as true. Such messaging and propaganda can raise fears and sow divisions among people. Serve your neighbor by resisting extreme messages and social anxiety. Speak words of trust in God that calm one's soul and offer hope and peace to others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalm 16:7 says, *"I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me."* When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with thoughts that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. This week, take time to read or listen to God's Word before you go to sleep. For children, use a storybook Bible. After reading, say this blessing: **May the Lord make you lie down in safety and may you sleep in peace.** (Psalm 4:8)

