

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK   
*Soli Deo Gloria*



*We praise God through acts of kindness.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Thursday	Daniel 2:17-23	Nebuchadnezzar's dream
Friday	2 Samuel 22:47-51	God is the living Lord
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.*

**Psalm 146:1-2 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Dear God, we praise you for your loving kindness that restores us, carries out justice, and fills our lives with your goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us with strength today with this gift of food. Help us to praise you with acts of kindness that help feed others, too. Amen.

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

May you see the goodness of God each and every day.

### 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:

- When is a time you or someone you know was praised for an act of kindness? Explain.
- What actions lead you to praise God?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Psalm 146.

This is the first in a series of five psalms of praise. It introduces many reasons to give God praise. We are to praise and trust God, not human leaders who are mortal and limited in their abilities. Mortal leaders are not necessarily bad, but in contrast to God, they can disappoint. The one worthy of praise is described as the one who creates all things, who gives justice for those who are oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets prisoners free, and who heals the body and spirit of those in need. God cares for those who live at the margins: the strangers, the orphan, and the widow. Knowing the kind of God we have, our praise to God is not only in words and song but shown in the way we live our lives. We praise God with deeds of compassion: our search for fair treatment of those who are hungry, those who are seen as without value, and those living with infirmities. In the reading from Mark 7:24-37, we see in Jesus the one who does all these things as he heals a foreign woman's daughter and a man who wanted to hear and speak clearly.

*Discuss:* How have you praised God through a deed of compassion?

*Pray:* **God of justice and mercy, we praise you for your goodness that leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show care for someone who is not being treated well in your community?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

September 8th is National Grandparent's Day in the United States. During this week, plan a special way to show appreciation for those who are or have treated you as a grandchild. Give thanks to God for them with prayer: **Loving God, thank you for the gift of grandparents and other older caregivers in our lives. Your kindness is shown in their love and care for us. Thank you for their wise minds, listening ears, and loving hearts. Amen.**