

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking  faith  
home

*Confession, forgiveness, and prayer heals a community.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:38-50</b>	<b>Avoiding sin</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29</b>	<b>Moses and the seventy elders</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>James 5:13-20</b>	<b>The power of prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Luke 24:36-49</b>	<b>Repentance and forgiveness</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Micah 7:18-20</b>	<b>God's steadfast love</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 3:17-26</b>	<b>Repent for times of refreshment</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 19:7-14</b>	<b>The wonders of God</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 10:2-16</b>	<b>Jesus blesses the children</b>

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. **James 5:16 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, help us to live together in peace as a witness to your power of forgiveness and healing. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord, thanks we say for night and day, food and shelter, rest and play. Be our guest and with us stay. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the word of the Lord restore your soul, give joy to your heart and light to your eyes.  
(Psalm 19:7-8)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK   
*Lord of All Hopefulness*

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CARING CONVERSATIONS 

Discuss in your home or small group:

- When is it easy to ask for forgiveness? When is it hard?
- Being part of a family or a congregation involves challenge and conflict as well as joy and gladness. What makes life together with others difficult at times?
- The healing addressed in James 5:16 is about the community (the "you" is plural). How do you offer confession and forgiveness to one another in your home and community of faith?

DEVOTIONS 

*Read:* Numbers 11:4-29, James 5:13-20, and Mark 9:38-50.

These texts all address the challenges of life in a faith community. The early church and the church today faced and continue to face difficulties. There are and always have been hurts and differences of opinion that beset our life together. Mark lifts up the power of Jesus' name for unity (vv. 39-40) as well as the importance of hospitality (v. 41) and gentleness (v. 42). James reminds people of the power of prayer (vv. 13-18), personal confession and forgiveness (v. 16) and the shepherding of a soul back into the community of faith (vv.19-20). Reflect on how you can be a supportive member of your family, small groups, and other communities of faith.

*Pray:* Dear God, help us to live together in peace. Give us hearts open to the needs of others, ready to forgive and be forgiven, and able to support those who feel alone and separated from the healing power of community. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE 

Caring for our life in community, whether it be a family, support group, or congregation is of vital importance to the integrity of the witness of the church. Reach out to someone who may feel alone or estranged from one's family, small group, or congregation. Express your care for them and for being a valued community member.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS 

In your home make a sign that reads "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another" (Mark 9:50). Put the message next to a salt shaker and place the sign and the salt on a table in your home. Salt makes a difference. Reflect on how your life in Christ has made you like salt and a powerful gift of peace to others.

