

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

God cares for the poor and needy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager
Monday	Amos 8:4-7	Judgment on Israel
Tuesday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Wednesday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Thursday	1 Kings 21:1-29	Elijah's judgment of Amos
Friday	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Hannah's prayer
Saturday	Psalms 113	The Lord helps people in need
Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Psalm 113:7-8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, help us to care for one another, especially the poor and needy, so that your ways may be celebrated on earth through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, as you care for the poor and the needy, we thank you for caring for us with this gift of food that we may give you praise through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's justice and mercy bless you.



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God of Grace and
God of Glory*

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 felt cheated by paying too much for something?
- God demands justice for the poor. Why is it important to know this?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Amos 8:4-7.

Being religious can sometimes focus on a private relationship with God. Amos certainly didn't feel his relationship with God was something to be kept private. Amos was not part of the prophetic tradition. He was a shepherd and farmer who raised figs. Nonetheless, God called him to be a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos denounced unfair business practices that cheated people out of what was rightfully theirs. Using false weights and measures to charge people too much for what they got was wrong. Amos knew it, and God denounced it. The wealthy controlled the marketplaces and had little regard for God's demand for justice and mercy. The wealthy couldn't wait for religious observances, like not working on the Sabbath, to be over so that more wealth could be taken from the poor. Amos is an example of biblical faith that cares very much for the needy. Our own personal faith in Jesus has a very public consequence for how we treat others with grace, mercy, and justice.

Discuss: When, in response to God's love, have you shown care for those in need?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you for watching over us and for caring for us in every need; help us to be ambassadors of your mercy and grace to others through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who has been taken advantage of?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul encourages us to offer "supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings" for all those in positions of authority and leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Think or talk about leaders in the world, the country, and your community you have read or heard about in the news. Write their names on a paper. Read the names aloud and then pray: **Lord God, we thank you for those in leadership positions and ask that you bless them in their work. May they use their positions to care for the poor and show honor to you. Amen.**

