

AUGUST 22, 2021  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*People respond differently to Jesus.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:56-71	Many disciples desert Jesus
Monday	Joshua 24:1-18	Many tribes renew the covenant
Tuesday	Ephesians 6:10-20	The whole armor of God
Wednesday	Matthew 16:1-12	Pharisees and Sadducees test Jesus
Thursday	Luke 7:1-10	Jesus heals an army officer's servant
Friday	John 3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus
Saturday	Psalms 34:15-22	The Lord is with you
Sunday	Mark 7:1-23	Authentic faith

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Simon Peter answered [Jesus], "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Almighty and living God, give us faith to trust in you that we may overcome disbelief with faith, fear with hope, and indifference with love through Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we humbly receive this food with thanksgiving, believing that all good things come from you. Amen.

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

May the one who redeems your life give you peace and joy.



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AUGUST 22, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Gather Us In*



### 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:

- In an era of deliberate misinformation, what is something you hold on to without wavering?
- What is something you have heard that is hard to believe?
- What does it mean to you that Peter said that Jesus is the Holy One of God?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 6:56-71.

It is difficult to have a conversation about Jesus without a strong reaction. Many of these reactions are experienced in our text from John 6. Some people hear the news of Jesus as the bread of life and complain that the message is difficult or offensive. Others simply experience disbelief. Some reject the message of Jesus and others actively pursue a path of betrayal. In the midst of all of these naysayers, Peter states words the church has sung throughout its history: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" (vv. 68-69). If truth be told, we have likely found ourselves in most—if not all—of those various groups. Such is the humble and challenging life of faith. At different moments of our lives, we, too, respond differently to the message and the presence of Jesus in our lives. When have you or someone you know sounded like a naysayer to Jesus as the Holy One of God? What moves us from disbelief to hope and from rejection to trust?

*Pray:* **Dear God, give us hearts of love and faith that dare to trust that Jesus is the bread of life, the Holy One of God, who brings to us the words of eternal life. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, "Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication." Supplication means to pray for God's help. We can serve others by praying for them. Is there someone you know who is in need of God's help? How can you pray for them this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We wear a seat belt in the car and a helmet when riding a bike to protect us from something bad happening. Ephesians 6:10-17 tells us that God helps protect us. The whole armor of God provides truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. The sword is the word of God. Draw a picture of a sword, color it, and cut it out. Use the sword as a bookmark in your Bible and as a reminder of the importance of God's word each time you read scripture.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)