

AUGUST 16, 2026
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus' ministry is for all nations.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph and his brothers
Thursday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Friday	Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, we thank you for your mercy and grace that is meant not only for those we know and love but for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for this food and for all those who have planted, harvested, transported, and prepared it for us this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you. (Psalm 67:1)



The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson. For a brief description, go to: <https://milestonesministry.org/history-of-the-four-keys/>.

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Are Welcome



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:

- What have you learned from someone who speaks another language or comes from a different culture?
- It is easy to overlook how God's grace and mercy is not just for us but for all people. How can you extend kindness to someone of a culture that is foreign to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 15:21-28.

The Canaanite woman is central to this story for many reasons. She is a woman, and she is a foreigner, both good reasons for Jesus not to talk to her. He is especially not to address her plea before addressing the needs of the Jewish people, "*the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (v. 24). This woman is also a critical figure because her plea for help changes Jesus' response to her. It is not easy to understand how this woman seems to teach and change Jesus, but she does. The result, however, is clear: Jesus' ministry, like that of the God of the Old Testament (Psalm 67) is for all the nations, not just the sons and daughters of Abraham. This story lifts up the essential mission of Jesus and the church of all generations. As Jesus directed us in Matthew 28:16-20 (the Great Commission), we are to make disciples of all nations, not just our ethnic group, not just "our people," and not just our own nation.

Discuss: What opportunities do you have in your community to show God's love to a foreigner or a stranger?

Pray: Generous God, help us to see the breadth and depth of your love for all people in the world through Christ our Lord. 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 reach out to someone who needs to hear kind and loving words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (the temple in Jerusalem) a "*house of prayer for all peoples*" (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about where, when, and how you pray in your home. In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"?

Pray: Lord Jesus, we come to you in prayer. Help us to show faith in you today and every day. Amen.



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