

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS AND PRAYERS

## FOR AUGUST 17-23, 2025

*Old Testament Reading for August 17 (Pentecost 10) Jeremiah 23:16–29*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>17</sup>They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

<sup>18</sup>For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord  
to see and to hear his word,  
or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

<sup>19</sup>Behold, the storm of the Lord!

Wrath has gone forth,  
a whirling tempest;  
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup>The anger of the Lord will not turn back  
until he has executed and accomplished  
the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

<sup>21</sup>“I did not send the prophets,  
yet they ran;

I did not speak to them,  
yet they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup>But if they had stood in my council,  
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,  
and they would have turned them from their evil way,  
and from the evil of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup>“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup>Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ <sup>26</sup>How

long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, <sup>27</sup>who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

### **Epistle for August 17 (Pentecost 10) Hebrews 11:17-12:3**

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

<sup>23</sup>By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup>choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup>He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup>And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

## ***Gospel for August 17 (Pentecost 11) Luke 13:22–30***

<sup>22</sup>Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

**Here are the readings for next Sunday. You will benefit from reading them ahead of time. You can help Pastor prepare his sermons by sharing your questions and comments!**

*Old Testament for August 24 (Pentecost 11)*

**Isaiah 66:18–23**

*Epistle for August 24 (Pentecost 11)*

**Hebrews 12:4–29**

*Gospel for August 24 (Pentecost 11)*

**Luke 13:22–30**

### ***We pray for others and for ourselves:***

✠ Prayers for members: Darlene F, Jerry Babb, Jerry and Claudia Bullock, Joan C, Tremayne, Mickey, Kathy.

✠ Prayers for others: Harriet’s brother Norman is on hospice – please pray for him, his wife Carole, and the family. Helen and her sister Margaret, Makayla, Sharon, Melody, Kelly.

✝ For all with cancer: Karen, Ron, Rick, John, Dean, Jim, Thelma

✝ For Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minnetonka and St. John's in Hollywood that God will soon provide pastors for them, and for Living Christ in Chanhassen, seeking several workers.

#### *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS*

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