

AUGUST 31, 2025
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Freed by Christ to honor others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality
Monday	Proverbs 25:6-7	Wise sayings of Solomon
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Service that pleases God
Wednesday	Matthew 25:31-46	Judgment of the nations
Thursday	Exodus 2:16-25	Moses flees to Median
Friday	Proverbs 3:27-30	Be kind to your neighbors
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. Luke 14:13-14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, help us to see as you see, that we may give praise to you and honor those we are with for the sake of Jesus Christ, the one who sets us free. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us that we all receive your grace and mercy; for this we thank you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy to honor others.



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AUGUST 31, 2025
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:

- When was a time you or someone you know were honored? Explain.
- Why do you think Jesus would challenge our current social standards of behavior?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Am I smart enough, rich enough, talented enough, or powerful enough? Do I fit in? Am I acceptable the way I am? These questions can lead to self-doubt and a quiet despair. As Jesus was noticing those who tried to take the seats of honor at the banquet, he reverses these questions. We should ask: "Do I honor others, especially those in need? Does my life value and lift up the lives of those around me?" We are freed from the self-doubting questions and liberated to bring delight to others by simply valuing them. The power to honor others is a position that cannot be taken away from us. We can enjoy the pleasure of others honoring us as well, not because of our status in life, but because we are loved children of God. Through Jesus Christ, we receive grace and mercy. He came to take away our fears, hurts, and disappointments in life. What we need to know is that we are lovable, forgivable, and capable to honor and love others in Christ.

Discuss: When and how have you or someone you know been honored?

Pray: **Loving God, you promise us an eternal banquet of peace and love; help us to enjoy that banquet feast now as we welcome others with generous hearts 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 give dignity to someone who doesn't feel valued?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus uses a parable about a wedding to show how God's protocol for good manners is a different way to look at the world. At God's table everyone is welcome. Think or talk about who you would invite if you were hosting a dinner. Write their names on a piece of paper. Look at the names and think about how you could make each guest feel welcome.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, teach us to be humble like you. Help us to welcome all people to God's table in your name. Amen.**



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