

About Pentecost 13 (August 21-27—Proper 16)

Theme: Jesus, the Only Way

– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

The LORD God of Israel promised His presence on earth to gather all nations and languages to come and see His glory. (Isaiah) He promised to gather them in the temple made holy by His holy presence. So it is that Christians still today are gathered to the heavenly Jerusalem. (Hebrews) They share in worship with the unseen saints in glory and to myriads of angels in festal assembly. They find their cleansing in the sprinkled blood of Jesus. There is but one door to eternal salvation. (Luke) No matter their ancestry, all whose faith is in Jesus Christ, God's Son, will take their places at the eternal feast in the Kingdom of God.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday	Isaiah 66:18-23 Why does the LORD gather the nations of the earth together? Where and when did all the earth see His glory? To which place did He want them to come? Why? Why therefore do we proclaim the gospel of Christ still today? What does this mean?
Monday	Hebrews 12:4-24 To which mountain did Israel come to meet with the LORD? What did they see and hear there? To which heavenly city are all Christians gathered when they meet together around Christ's Word and Sacrament? With whom are they in unseen contact? What did Abel's blood testify to? To what does Jesus' blood testify? How do we uniquely receive that blood in our worship? What happens, therefore, in our worship? What does this mean?
Tuesday	Luke 13:22-30 What keeps humans out of heaven? Why is the door to salvation therefore narrow? Who is the only door to salvation? From where will people be gathered into God's kingdom? How is this done? How does gather the "last" to be first in His kingdom? What does this mean?
Wednesday	Psalm 117 (Introit) Who is invited to praise the LORD? For which two reasons? What love and faithfulness has the LORD shown you at the cross? In your life? What does this mean?
Thursday	Proverbs 25:2-10 Who is it that grants status in a King's presence? What might happen if a subject claimed a place not belonging to him? Is humility admired in our secular society? Where must and can we learn it? What does this mean?
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-17 What is the chief distinguishing characteristic among Christians? Where does this come from? How are angels sometimes found incognito among humans? What is the Christian attitude toward prisoners? Why? How does God exalt human sexuality within the marriage bond? How is marriage to be guarded and kept pure? What is the problem with greed? Who is our consolation in times of uncertainty and fear? What should be our attitude toward leaders in the church? Who remains constant in an ever-changing world? What does this mean?
Saturday	Luke 14:1-14 Where was Jesus invited? What did he observe at the dinner party? How can everyone avoid public humiliation? Who is in charge of the seating chart at formal occasions? Who alone dispenses status in the Kingdom of God? What does this mean? How does God's mercy and gifts toward us inform and motivate our response toward the downcast and humble in this world? How is this done?