

About Pentecost 14 (August 28-September 4—Proper 17)

Theme: Christian Humility

- *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* -

**P**roud hearts exalt themselves; in the King's presence this leads to humiliation. (Proverbs) Humility awaits the royal invitation "come up here" and so finds its joy in the King's recognition. Many virtues belong to each and every Christian. (Hebrews) Hospitality, compassion, chastity, contentment, and honor for office of the ministry all flow from undivided faith in Christ. Thus our Savior rejected the pride of the religious Pharisees who chose the seats of honor at the banquet. (Luke) Faith does not exalt itself, but waits to be exalted by another. The places of honor at the eternal wedding banquet are gifts bestowed by grace from on high.

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.

<b>Sunday</b>	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?
<b>Monday</b>	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?
<b>Tuesday</b>	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?
<b>Wednesday</b>	Psalms 131 Why might this psalm be titled "a song of ascents"? Why is the psalmist not "proud"? How is the analogy of a mother and a weaned child applicable to what the psalmist says? What does this mean for oneself personally?
<b>Thursday</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Who is speaking these words? Are they words of promise or words of warning? What will be the result if Israel follows these words? ...the result if they do not? What does this mean for one's life today?
<b>Friday</b>	Philemon 1-21 How did Paul meet Onesimus? Why does he have such deep affection for him? What change has taken place in his life? Why will Philemon now have not only a slave, but also a dear brother? How is Paul's generosity a reminder of Christ's own work on our behalf? What can you learn from this letter about how to forgive and restore those who have wronged you?
<b>Saturday</b>	Luke 14:25-35 What is the cost of discipleship? Why do you have to estimate the costs of construction before you proceed to build? Why do you need to consider the size of an army before waging war? What gets in the way of belonging to Christ? Therefore what is the challenge of being a Christian? How is this done?