

About Pentecost 5 (June 26—July 2 – Proper 8)

Theme: The Call of the Lord's Servants

– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

Elijah was depressed; he thought that he alone remained faithful to the LORD in Israel. (1Kings) The LORD not only showed him that seven thousand faithful remained in Israel, but He provided Elisha to carry Elijah's prophetic ministry forward. So also the disciples were distraught at the unbelief of the Samaritans. (Luke) Jesus taught them patient, persistent proclamation of the Kingdom instead of retribution. Christian freedom marks the Christian life. (Galatians) Having come to newness of life by faith in Christ, we are no longer under the Law. Yet such freedom does not excuse the sinful nature. Therefore faith in God finds its fruition in love for the neighbor.

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	1 Kings 19:9b-21 Why was Elijah frustrated and frightened? What were the odds for the success of the LORD's cause as far as he was concerned? What was God's solution? How far off were Elijah's statistics? When was the last time you thought life was hopeless? What hope continually belongs to those whom the LORD loves? What does this mean?
Monday	Galatians 5:1, 13-25 What unique freedom belongs to all who are in Christ? How could this freedom be destructive? To what constructive use should Christian freedom be put? What is the summary of the entire law of God? What is the end result of infighting among Christians? How can this be avoided?
Tuesday	Luke 9:51-62 Where was Jesus headed? Why? How did Jesus challenge the man who volunteered to follow Him? How does the Kingdom of God transcend all earthly obligations? Where do you regularly come into contact with the Kingdom of God? What therefore ought to be your chief priority? How is this done??
Wednesday	Psalm 16 Who alone is the source of all good? What delightful inheritance belongs to all who trust in the LORD? What is the constant source of stability for all the faithful? Who was not abandoned in the grace and did not see decay in death? How therefore have those baptized into Christ found the path of life? What eternal joys do they anticipate? What does this mean?
Thursday	Isaiah 66:10-14 How is holy city Jerusalem a picture of the church? Why is the church our mother? How does she feed her children? What comfort do all the faithful therefore find in the church? Where and how are we nurtured by her today? How does she comfort you; from what does she protect you? How is this done and what does this mean?
Friday	Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18 What caution must be used in restoring fellow Christians entrapped by sin? How is the "law of Christ" fulfilled? What happens when a Christian sows to his sinful nature? What happens when he sows to the Spirit? How is this done? Why ought we not grow weary in doing good? To whom should we do good? How is this done? What is the sole reason to boast for a Christian? Why is the goal of the Christian life crucifixion? How is this done? Describe therefore the shape of the Christian life in your own words? How does this help interpret the difficulties you are experiencing right now?
Saturday	Luke 10:1-20 What is the problem with gathering in the Lord's harvest? Who will send the workers? On whom are they to depend? Who will support them? What is their job where they are welcomed? What should they do when they are resisted? To whom are people listening when they listen to the ones the Lord has sent? Whom are they rejecting when they reject them? What does this mean for the ministry in our church?