



<sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,  
even as we place our | hope in you. R

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16**

A reading from Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 12:32–40**

<sup>32</sup>Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

<sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

## Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven
Monday	Luke 12:41-48	Parable of the servants
Tuesday	Matthew 6:19-24	Store up heavenly treasures
Wednesday	Matthew 19:16-26	The rich young man
Thursday	Matthew 13:44-46	A parable about treasure
Friday	Ecclesiastes 9:7-12	Wisdom for living
Saturday	Proverbs 2:1-11	The treasure of wisdom
Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Jesus the cause of division

### Scripture Verse for the Week:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see. – Hebrews 11:1 (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

### Prayer for this Week:

Lord God, please give me a strong faith. Help me trust that you will always keep your promises. Amen. (Hebrews 11:1,11)

### For Throughout the Day:

Lord Jesus, you are my true treasure. Help me to put you first in my heart today. Amen. (Luke 12:34).

### A Blessing to Share:

*May God give you faith in his promises.  
May his faithful love rest on you as you hope in him. Amen.*  
(Hebrews 11:1; Psalm 33:22)

### Mealtime Refrain:

We put our hope in the Lord:  
**God is our help and our shield.** (Psalm 33:20)

### Mealtime Prayer:

*Food on our table. Grace in our lives. Praise in our hearts.  
Thank you, God! Amen.*



**Faith Talk:**

- Share about a time when you had to wait for something.
- Jesus tells us to be always ready for him to return (Luke 12:35-40). What can we do to be ready for him?
- How do you feel about Jesus' returning? Do you think you are ready?

**Devotional Practices:**

In Genesis 15:1-6 we hear that God made a special covenant with Abram, promising him as many descendants as there were stars in the sky! In your home devotion times this week, make up a list of the different promises that God has made to his people e.g. "God has promised to save us", "God has promised us eternal life", "God has promised to answer our prayers". Write each one onto a piece of yellow paper cut into a star shape. Place these onto your walls or ceiling as a reminder of God's love and grace.

**Service:**

Hebrews 11 lists people from the Bible who showed faith in God. Who have been examples of faith to members of your household? Write letters to these people, thanking them for their example.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Jesus told his followers to wait for him like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding party. Gather a candle for each member of your household. When you sit down for meals this week, light the candles and say these words (from Luke 12:35):

**Leader:** *"Be dressed and ready for service and keep your lamps burning."*

**Response:** *"For Jesus, our master, is coming."*

**Parent Toolbox: Surround Your Children with Faith Witnesses!**

Hebrews 11 reminds us that as Christians we are part of a long chain of faith that extends right back to Adam and Eve! Living faithfully is never an individual enterprise – to have faith is to be connected to other persons of faith, both past, present and future. As parents, one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children is deep and meaningful connections with other witnesses to the faith. The stories and examples of other Christians confirm, extend and reinforce our own parental witness to God's gracious activity.

- Be intentional about exposing your children to other Christian adults who can serve as positive and encouraging role models to them.
- Where possible, ask grandparents, aunts and uncles to share their own faith stories with your children.
- Read your children stories about historical figures of Christian faith e.g. Martin Luther, Francis of Assisi, David Livingstone.