

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 19, 2025
19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir

11:00 am - First Sunday of each month

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 19, 2025
19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



GUESTS:

We would like to get to know you! Please complete a “Welcome to St. Mark Church” card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ’s encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ’s table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

Thursday, October 23, 2025

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

PASTOR MARLEEN:



Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates the congregation shall rise as able.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Toccata in E Minor

J. Pachelbel

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our maker, our helper,
and our keeper.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of
God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.

P Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from
the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over
us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ
came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have
been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

Please bring items for New Hope to the
altar during the singing of the first hymn.

*GATHERING HYMN

Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

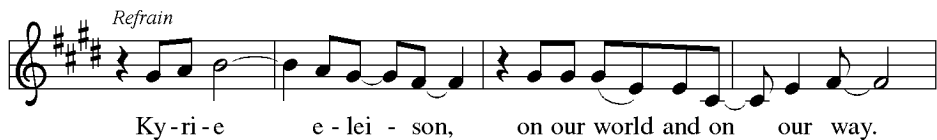


lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

*GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

*KYRIE



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

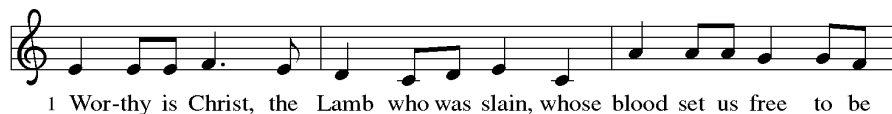
life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Refrain



Final refrain



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

P O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

R A reading from Genesis.

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

(Please READ the Psalm responsively—Women, the regular print; Men, the bold print.)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

⁶ **so that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸ **The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND LESSON: 2nd Timothy 3:14–4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

R A reading from 2nd Timothy.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8**

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

***APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all creation.

A God of grace,
C receive our prayer.

P We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace
and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

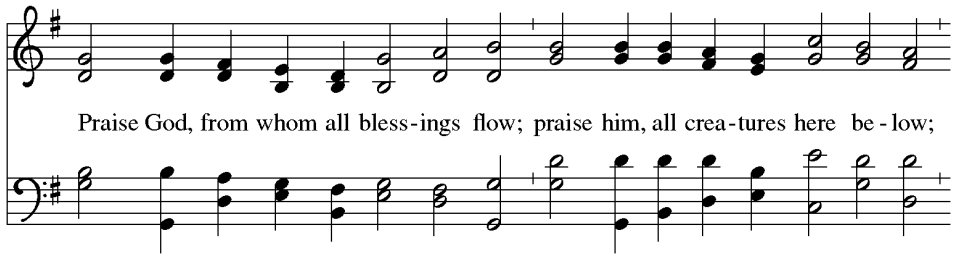
OFFERTORY

Allegro from Sonata in C Major

F. J. Haydn

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

- P** Holy God,
mighty Fortress, loving Redeemer, steadfast Comforter,
as vegetation matures in forests and fields, your living Word
undergirds all that lives. We praise your eternal Word.
- C** **We praise your eternal Word.**
- P** In the words of the scriptures you offer us Christ:
our refuge, our savior, our friend, accompanying us throughout
our years and renewing us in love. We praise Jesus, your Word.
- C** **We praise Jesus, your Word.**
- P** We pray for power from your abiding Spirit.
Strengthen us to stand firm in faith, in devotion to your Word,
and in service to others. We pray for the Spirit of your Word.
- C** **We pray for the Spirit of your Word.**
- P** To you be honor and praise and glory, today and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

***BLESSING**

P The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝
bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: SEELENBRAUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

G. Duffield



ALTAR FLOWERS

In honor of my sister, Jennifer, by Susan Fissel.

In memory of my grandparents, Edward and Ruth Bird and Samuel and Ella Mae Fissel, by Susan Fissel.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Barb Yost
Lay Reader:	Amy Gimbel
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Ushers:	Greg Hoover, Cindy Hoover
Altar Guild:	Sara Jane Miller, Bev Reihart
Money Duty:	Amy Gimbel, Karen Fisher

DISCLAIMER FOR RECORDING SERVICES

We are blessed to be able to record our worship services. By entering and by your presence here, you consent to be filmed and/or otherwise recorded for our congregation and on YouTube. Our cameras are generally directed at the front of the sanctuary.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, October 19

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HARVEST HOME
CROP WALK
Worship Service
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
CROP Walk at Mechanicsburg
Memorial Park

Monday, October 20

8:30 am
2:45 pm
7:00 pm
Garden Club-Fellowship Hall
Violin Lessons
German Group

Tuesday, October 21

6:30 pm
WinGS

Wednesday, October 22

11:00 am
6:00 pm
7:00 pm
Bible Study
Bell Choir
Adult Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 23

2:00 pm
6:15 pm
Violin Lessons
Ladies & Friends Night Out at Snappers,
Mechanicsburg, PA

Friday, October 24

2:30 pm
Violin Lessons

Saturday, October 25

3:00 pm
Kids Halloween Party

Sunday, October 26

REFORMATION SUNDAY
NOISY SUNDAY
Worship Service-Communion
Intergenerational Sunday School
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Recital, Fellowship Hall, Dawn Bennett

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

OCTOBER 26, 2025

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

MECHANICSBURG/WEST SHORE CROP HUNGER WALK CROP WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

It's not too late to sponsor one of our walkers or to walk. Either write a check payable to CWS/CROP and give it to the walker before 1:00 pm today or go online using this link and make a donation through a secure site. Click this link to donate to a team member or to "sign-up" to walk.
[2025 CROP Hunger Walk - St. Mark Keller St. Walkers](#)

St. Mark Keller St. Walkers Sunday, October. 19, 2025 Schedule:

1:00 PM - New Registrations

1:30 PM - Team Pictures

1:50 PM - Kick Off

2:00 PM - Walk Begins

LOOKING AHEAD TO ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 2, 2025**, we will remember the Saints who have died in faith since last All Saints' Sunday (November 3, 2024). **If you have a loved one whom you would like to remember this year, please contact the church office no later than Monday, October 20.**

WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE

This month, due to the Halloween Parade occurring on October 14, the WinGS will meet on **October 21 at 6:30 pm**. All women are invited to attend. Bring a friend!

LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

Our next Ladies Night Out will be held, Thursday, **October 23, 2025, at 6:15 pm at Snappers in Mechanicsburg**. Please RSVP to Karen Fisher no later than Sunday, October 19. Hope to see you there!

<https://mechanicsburgrestaurant.com/>

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES—HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Social Ministry Committee designates one Sunday per month to bring items in support of New Hope Ministries. Following are the items for October, November, and December:

October 19 - Harvest Home including canned Meat and Fish.

November 2 - Thanksgiving Food Items

Turkey, Potatoes, Stuffing, Canned Yams, Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy, Aluminum Roaster pan, Pumpkin Pie Mix, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Boxed Stuffing, Dry Beans, or anything you would like to give.

December 7 - Christmas Food Items

Turkey or Ham, Potatoes, Stuffing, Canned Yams, Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy, Aluminum Roaster pan, Pumpkin Pie Mix, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Boxed Stuffing, Dry Beans, or anything you would like to give.

BOOK CLUB

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on **Thursday, November 4, at 1:00 pm in the parlor**. The suggested read is a book entitled, *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman. The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT & YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **November 22, 2025**—it's going to be a fun-filled evening at St. Mark Lutheran Church!

Parents' Night Out (5:00-7:00 p.m.)

Need a break? We've got you covered! Parents of potty trained preschoolers through 5th grade children are invited to enjoy a night out while your kids enjoy a safe and fun evening right here at church. From 5:00-7:00 p.m., our Older Youth and Adult volunteers will provide babysitting, dinner, and engaging activities for the children. Please let us know how many children and their ages will be attending **NO LATER THAN Wednesday, November 19** by emailing: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Youth Movie Night (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)

The fun doesn't stop there! At 7:00 p.m., our Older Youth will stay for a special Movie Night. Popcorn will be provided, and each youth is asked to bring along a favorite snack to share with friends.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, fun, and a little break for parents—while our young people build community together. Don't miss it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2025	PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH
October 19	CROP WALK
October 21	WinGS
October 23	Ladies & Friends Night Out at Snappers
October 25	Kids Halloween Parade
October 26	Reformation Sunday
November 2	All Saints Sunday
November 4	Book Club
November 4	Election Day
November 9	Congregation Meeting
November 22	Parent's Night Out (5:00 pm-7:00 pm)
November 22	Youth Movie Night (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)
November 23	Joint Thanksgiving Svc. at Trinity-6:30 pm
November 30	Deadline to order poinsettias
December 7	Christmas Caroling for Neighbors-3:00 pm
December 7	Christmas Carol Sing with cookies and cocoa in Fellowship Hall-4:00 pm
December 13	Decorate the church for Christmas
December 24	Christmas Eve Services & Lighting of the Luminaries
January 2026	Soup-er Bowl Begins
January 6	Epiphany Day Taco Tues - 6:00 pm
January 6	Epiphany Day Service - 7:00 pm



PUT ON YOUR COSTUME AND JOIN US FOR SOME FUN
AT THE

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
Halloween Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

3:00-4:30 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

117 W. KELLER STREET

MECHANICSBURG, PA 17050

SNACKS, DEVOTIONS, AND GAMES

AGES PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE

R.S.V.P. to revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com by October 22nd



A handwritten phrase "Thank you ..." in a red, cursive script. The word "Thank" is written in a large, flowing style, and "you" is written in a smaller, more compact style. The phrase is followed by three dots.

We Appreciate You !!!

RECOGNIZING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

St. Mark would like to say “*Thank You*” to all of our 80 year old plus members for all they have done and continue to do for our congregation! If you are between 80 and 85, please contact Shannon Weaver at 717-691-1618 (leave a message) **no later than October 19** to share all the ways you have actively participated in our ministry over the years.

If you know someone who should be recognized, please contact Shannon to put them on our list! We don’t want to miss any of this valued group.

Pastor Marleen and Shannon Weaver

LECTIONARY 29

PRAYERFUL PERSEVERANCE

How should we pray? What should we pray for? We might sometimes treat prayer like putting coins in a divine vending machine, and some rely on the story of the persistent widow to claim that God will indeed shower us with blessing if only we pray “enough.” Yet, despite fervent prayer, we don’t always get that job, the illness comes anyway, the doubts continue. If we take literally the claims of those who promise prosperity for God’s people, the condition of humanity suggests none of us has been persistent enough. Because, after all, life happens to all of us.

In Jesus’ parable, the woman is not praying strictly for herself; rather, she is praying for justice. A better word may be “vengeance.” The persistent widow is coming to the judge and crying out, “Avenge me! Avenge me against my adversaries!” Her focus is laser-sharp, and she does not give in to distractions. She waits with fervent hope that there will come a day when the judge brings balance, restores what has been lost, and humbles those who have done wrong. The widow is asking for something much larger than her daily needs. She is pleading on behalf of the world.

Like Jacob in Genesis 32, sometimes we wrestle with God, pleading for our own blessing. Our striving can feel overwhelming or even pointless. But Jesus invites us to focus and be persistent, to cry out to him day and night.

Though our prayers are not always answered in the way we want or expect, we can count on God to keep promises. We can count on a day when we are all restored. We can count on a time when God will avenge all of us against the crushing force of death. We can hang our hope on the fact that God receives our persistence with love, patience, and grace.

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