



17th November 2019
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – PROPER 28
Stand firm

Sundays after Pentecost

GREEN is a sign of life and nature and as such
represents growth, life and hope.

verse for the week
stand firm, and
you will win life.

LUKE 21:19

SHARE

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

What is a hope you have for the future? What is a fear you have about the future?

2

It has been said: "We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future." What does this say to you?

3

What promises does Jesus give to us about the future? (Look up Luke 21:19.)

Devotions

READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake
M	Luke 21:25-36	Coming of the Son of Man
T	Exodus 14:10-31	Stand firm
W	2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13	Never tire of doing what is good
T	Isaiah 65: 17-25	I will create new heavens
F	Jude 17-23	A call to persevere
S	Psalms 141	God is my refuge
S	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king

TALK Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions

PRAY

Lord God, help us not to become tired of doing good. Lead us to find ways to serve you and others. Amen.

BLESS

May God make you strong in your faith. May God give you wise words to speak up for him.

Creative Response

Isaiah 65:17 tells us that God will "create new heavens and a new earth".

Verses 24-25 of that chapter describe a new place where "the wolf and the lamb will eat together and the lion will eat straw like the ox".

Share your personal "pictures of heaven" with each other (e.g. "I picture heaven as a place where ...").

As an additional activity, draw or paint these images. Place them up in your home together with the words of Isaiah 65:17a.

mealt ime prayer

Lord, thank you for the food you send. Keep us in faith until the end. Amen.

Service

In Luke 21, Jesus warns that some Christians will face persecution because they follow him. This is the case today in various parts of the world. Pray this week for:

- **Christians in North Korea.** In this country following Jesus is considered an act of treason, and Christians face the real threat of imprisonment and even execution.
- **Christians in Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq and in various parts of Indonesia, India and Pakistan.** Many Christians in these areas live in fear of being physically attacked by followers of other religions.
- **Christians in China.** House churches in China face the constant threat of raids from government authorities. Many house church leaders have been arrested and imprisoned in modern China.