

JUNE 14, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We are sent by Jesus to bless others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Exodus 19:2-8a	Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A son promised to Abraham
Thursday	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Saturday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. **Matthew 9:35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of constant love and faithfulness, we thank you for your care; give us strength to extend your care to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen. (Psalm 100:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the compassion of the Lord be with you and care for you like a shepherd cares for the sheep. (Matthew 9:36)



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JUNE 14, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*All People That on
Earth Do Dwell*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it mean to you to bless someone?
- Our relationship with Jesus is meant to bless others. What does this mean to you?
- Jesus' followers were sent out to do the work of Jesus. Do you think this was easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 9:35–10:23.

In the Old Testament lesson for this week (Exodus 19:2-8a) God once again establishes a covenant with the house of Jacob, just as God established a covenant with Abram in Genesis 12. God is making a priestly people, a holy nation to bless the world. In Matthew 9 and 10, Jesus now is establishing his covenant with his followers to bless others. Just as Jesus himself tells good news to people and heals every disease and sickness (9:35), his followers will go out and do similar acts of the kingdom (10:1 and 7). Those sent out by Jesus are doing the work of Jesus. The task was not easy for Jesus and will not be easy for his followers (10:16-23), but the Spirit of God will go with them (10:20). This passage is filled with compassion and is sobering at the same time. This is not someone else's ministry. It is the call all followers of Jesus have in some form. It is a daring mission that requires courage and wisdom (10:16). It is not an optional task. Our work as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world day in and day out wins because we do not go alone, but with the Spirit of God. How do you accomplish the task of being Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world?

Pray: **Almighty God, send us out with your message of hope and compassion that heals through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Christian mission trips can be local or global and participants serve as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world. There are many opportunities to serve on and/or financially support a mission team. Have you been on a mission trip? If so, share your story with someone and invite them to get involved. If not, find out more about supporting or joining a mission trip locally and globally.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart* is a popular Christian song written in the 1920's and still stirs memories and joy in the hearts of many. Take a moment to make a joyful noise to the Lord and sing this well-known song.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

JUNE 21, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

Christ gives us a new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael are sent away
Thursday	Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17	Save me, Lord
Friday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old and the new life
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. **Romans 6:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to trust that all that we are and hope to be is found in the new life we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all good things come from you; thank you for your goodness that gives us food to eat this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God draw near to you and free you from your fears through Christ your Lord. (Psalm 69:18)



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JUNE 21, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus,
You Shall Be My Song



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you would like to accomplish in the next year?
- What is it about that accomplishment that is important to you?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to value a relationship with him above all things?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 10:24-39.

Core values are important because they define what we stand for and who we are. Jesus indicates that following him is non-negotiable and an all-or-nothing proposition. Sometimes we must let go of what we treasure in life to gain what really counts in God's kingdom. In the process, Jesus gives a number of stark contrasts, many of which are hard to hear. Following Jesus will lead some to be rejected by family, which was a reality in first century Christianity and can be true today, too. Acknowledge Jesus and he will acknowledge you. Deny him and he will deny you. In the midst of these tough passages is Jesus' repeated theme of not being afraid (vv. 26, 28, and 31). Jesus warns us not to deny him before others, but Peter does three times before Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 26:69-75). What Peter learns is that mercy, not judgment is the ultimate core value in the kingdom. God's mercy takes away our fear. Jesus calls us to make a difference and to rely on him. We all falter. Jesus doesn't. This is the newness of life that the Apostle Paul identifies (Romans 6:4) for the baptized that stands out for its dramatically different way of living. How does God's mercy help you not to be afraid?

Pray: **Dear God, may our life in Christ give us peace and good courage as we live each day with others. Amen.**

SERVICE



Sunday is Father's Day. Take time to offer prayers of thanksgiving and support for fathers and all men as they seek to be caregivers to those around them. Begin your prayers by saying, "Dear God, thank you for (name) . . ." Contact or visit those for whom you have prayed and/or send them a card as a sign of your appreciation and thankfulness.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Baptism involves the mystery of God's work that claims us as God's own in Christ. Think about or tell a story about your baptism or that of someone else. Fill a bowl with water. Dip your fingers into the water. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or that of another person. Say: **May God bless you with new life in Christ each and every day.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

JUNE 28, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We are freed from sin to care for others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Genesis 22:1-14	Command to sacrifice Isaac
Thursday	Psalms 13	Prayer for deliverance
Friday	Acts 6:5-15	The arrest of Stephen
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, grace, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has freed you from sin bless you with a holy life and life eternal. (Romans 6:22)



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JUNE 28, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you been tempted to do something you knew was wrong? What happened?
- Should there be consequences when someone does something wrong? Explain.
- How does the Christian faith lead you beyond selfish desires?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith was license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul (6:15). What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power in the universe opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to that life opposed to God (6:4). What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “to God as instruments of righteousness” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. The life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend so Paul writes, “I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations,” so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence (v. 19). How does God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve in Christ’s name?

Pray: **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Leading a life as a follower of Jesus can seem to be a big task. In Matthew 10, Jesus reminds us that even the small things we do are acts of service, like giving a cup of water (v.42). Giving a drink of water, holding a door, and offering a kind word can make a difference in someone’s life. What acts of service can you do this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them. Whether mealtime or bedtime prayers, reading the Bible, singing hymns, or blessing one another, the faith practices we model in our homes live on from generation to generation. Make a list of faith practices you do in your home. What ones have you passed on to others?



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