

JULY 19, 2020  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Christians are people of hope.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</b>	<b>Parable of the weeds</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 44:6-8</b>	<b>The Lord's promise to Israel</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:12-25</b>	<b>Future glory for God's people</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Genesis 28:10-19a</b>	<b>Jacob's dream at Bethel</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24</b>	<b>The inescapable God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Peter 1:3-9</b>	<b>A living hope</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 86:11-17</b>	<b>Save me, Lord</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 13:31-32, 41-52</b>	<b>Parables of the kingdom</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtimes Prayer:**

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be gracious to you, and give you strength. (Psalm 86:16)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Goodness Is  
Stronger than Evil*



### 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:

- Tell or think about something you want to see happen in the near future.
- What gives you hope?
- How does faith in God give you hope?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death “by the Spirit” that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: “. . . we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death . . . so we too might walk in newness of life.” Paul speaks of living “according to the flesh” (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God (vv. 14-15). As children who can say, “Abba! Father!” we are heirs of God’s future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we “suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him” (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. We wait for Christ’s final victory with hope and patience (v. 25). How does knowing you are an heir of God’s future in Christ help you have patience and hope?

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. Amen.**

### SERVICE

“The good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one” (Matthew 13:38). We are planted by God as seeds on the earth. Though there may be “weeds” among us, good “seeds” make good decisions and reflect God’s love through acts of service. In what ways have you or someone you know been a “good seed” in your community?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer and scripture reading. Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to someone else? Pray using Psalm 86:11, “**Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**” Amen.



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