

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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## 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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)