

MARCH 12, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



God changes enemies into followers.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Thursday	1 Samuel 24:1-15	David spares Saul's life
Friday	Romans 12:14-21	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalms 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Reconciling God, we thank you for reuniting us with you and with all the people of the world through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, give us thankful hearts for this meal. We pray for all to have enough to eat for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Lord, Hear My Prayer



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 characteristics do you look for in a friend? When is a time you felt you were an outsider?
- How does God's care for you feel a bit surprising, even when you know you have done something wrong?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 4:5-42.

In John 3, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus who is a male, a Pharisee, and a Jewish insider. In John 4, Jesus speaks to someone (by contrast), who is a woman, a Samaritan, and an outsider in her own community. For a Jew, a Samaritan is an enemy worthy of being excluded, but Jesus expands God's reconciling work by speaking to a Samaritan woman who is a community outsider. Jesus gives a visible example of what John 3:16 means for the church. God's love for the world brings unlikely disciples into the church who witness to Jesus. Jesus' followers are to have a real relationship to him as Savior. (The Samaritans are the only ones in John's Gospel who call Jesus "Savior.") The follower's relationship includes reaching out to others with the love of Jesus. The woman tells the people to "Come and see" Jesus (John 4:29). They do and respond that "we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world" (v. 42). The woman witnesses to Jesus so others may know him as Savior.

Discuss: How do you reach out to others with the love of Jesus?

Pray: **Lord God, help us to see Jesus as the Savior of the world and to see our neighbor as worthy of your love. Help us to show your love to our neighbors. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you reach out to someone who seems to be an outsider in the community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week think or talk about the homeless and their needs. Add a donation for the homeless to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

Pray: **Loving God, we often forget about the needs of others. Help us to think of the homeless and how we can help fulfill their needs. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



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