

JULY 14, 2019
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Show mercy to your neighbor.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 10:25-37	The good Samaritan
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Colossians 1:1-14	A prayer of thanks
Wednesday	Genesis 39:6-23	God protects Joseph
Thursday	James 2:1-13	Warning against favorites
Friday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Saturday	Psalms 25	A prayer for guidance
Sunday	Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing needed

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He [The lawyer] said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:36-37 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, for the sake of your goodness, take our fears, prejudices, and hate and fill our hearts with mercy and our actions with deeds of love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, for this food, your praises we shout! We ask for your help for those without. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you strength to endure all things and to live with joy and thanksgiving. (Colossians 1:11-12)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Gracious Spirit, Heed
Our Pleading*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it mean to show mercy to someone?
- Is it easier to show mercy or judge a person's actions? Why?
- Why is it sometimes easier to show mercy and understanding to a family member or friend than to someone we do not know?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 10:25-37.

Our world is full of judgment and condemnation for people who are different from us. We hear it in the news daily. One nation condemns another nation. One group of people shows hate to another group. It can be so easy to belittle others, see them in a negative light and feel justified in our superiority. What often gets missed is the fear of others that justifies human hate of others. Without saying, “Have no fear” or, “Peace be with you,” as Jesus says at other times, here Jesus tells a story of a hated (at least by many Jews of Jesus’ day) Samaritan who defies hate-filled stereotypes of him and acts with mercy. The Samaritan acts with courage and compassion and takes real initiative to provide for the needs of another. He demonstrates what Jesus means by being a neighbor: prejudices are set aside; fears are overcome; compassion and mercy win the day. It has been said that the greatest act the church can show is not an act of righteous judgment but an act of mercy. Where might God be leading you to show mercy to others today?

Pray: Merciful God, you who forgive our sins and give us new life, lead us in love to live lives of courage and faith and to care for those around us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

SERVICE

Being a good neighbor means caring for others both in good times and bad times. If you have not met or even know your nearby neighbors, they are strangers. Can you name everyone in your own neighborhood? How would you know when they need a helping hand if you do not know them? Consider ways to introduce yourself this week through an act of kindness to the neighbors you do not know.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 25 guides us in understanding how to live in a relationship with God, one that is filled with promises. Faith practices we do in our homes strengthen our relationships with one another and with God. One faith practice is to read scripture daily. Read Psalm 25 and circle those words or phrases that guide you to a personal, trusted relationship with God.



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