

JULY 28, 2019
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus teaches his followers to pray.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer
Monday	Genesis 18:20-32	Abraham haggles with God
Tuesday	Colossians 2:6-19	Fullness of life in Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 32:7-14	Moses appeals to God
Thursday	James 5:13-20	The prayer of faith
Friday	Matthew 6:5-15	Jesus on prayer
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” **Luke 11:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you who welcome our prayers, praise, questions, and our fears and frustrations, help us to come to you with confidence, hope, and love. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, you who hunger for our attention, thank you for giving us each day our daily bread. Amen. (Luke 11:3)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who cares for you with the love of a parent, feed you, forgive you, and preserve you now and always.



JULY 28, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
O Lord, Hear My Prayer



CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When do you pray? What do you pray for?
- How has praying made a difference in your life?
- A life of prayer is not easy. What does it take to make prayer part of our daily lives?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 11:1-13.

Jesus teaches his followers to pray by giving a model prayer, a parable about perseverance, and simple words of wisdom on pursuing what we want with vigor. The gift we most want is a relationship to God, what is granted to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit (v. 13). Seen this way, prayer does not disappoint. We are given an intimate relationship of a parent caring for a child seen in verses 11-13 and introduced by the first word of Jesus’ model prayer: “Father.” We are to ask for the essentials of life: food, forgiveness, and preservation. Jesus’ teaching on prayer is not lengthy. It focuses on the essentials of life grounded in the confidence of an intimate relationship with God. Now, just as Jesus is portrayed praying throughout the Gospel of Luke (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 9:28; 10: 21-22; 11:1; 22:41-44; and 23:46), it is time for us to do as Jesus did: pray. Look these verses up and highlight them in your Bible.

Pray: **Our Father, by your holy name give us the faith to trust in you and to seek everything in life that is part of your kingdom of grace, mercy, and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.**

SERVICE

James 5:13-20 is about the prayer of faith. This scripture reading provides an example of how we are to pray for others, for those who are suffering, those who are sick, and those who need forgiveness. Is there someone you know who is need of a prayer of praise or one for healing? Find time to be with them and pray with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus taught the disciples how to pray. He taught them the Lord’s Prayer. Nearly 2,000 years later, this same Lord’s Prayer is a prayer said in both our congregations and in our homes. Who taught you to pray the Lord’s Prayer? Pray the Lord’s Prayer in your home and think of hand signs or use sign language for key words as you pray. Using hand signs when you pray embeds the prayer in your heart and mind. Who would benefit learning this prayer from you?

