

JULY 7, 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Care for others with gentleness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Jesus sends out the seventy
Monday	Isaiah 66:10-14	God helps Jerusalem
Tuesday	Galatians 6:1-16	Help each other
Wednesday	Proverbs 5:1-8	The Lord sees everything
Thursday	1 Peter 5:1-7	Tending the flock of God
Friday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing helpful things
Saturday	Psalms 66:1-9	Shout praises to God
Sunday	Luke 10:25-37	The good Samaritan

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. **Galatians 6:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, just as you have cared for us, help us to care for one another with gentleness, mercy, and peace. In Jesus name, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

You have blessed us, O God, with food to savor. Send us forth, your fields to labor. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Almighty God strengthen you with gentleness, peace, and mercy.



JULY 7, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Spirit of Gentleness



CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If someone does something wrong to you, how do you respond to them?
- What is an example of caring for others with gentleness?
- Part of the mission of the church is to care for those already part of the church. How do those who are part of the church need your care?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Galatians 6:1-16.

Luke 10 speaks of a mission to those who have not received the message of the kingdom Jesus brings. Galatians 6 speaks to how that same message of Jesus shapes the life within the body of Christ, the church. There is an important mission to care for those who have already received the Holy Spirit and are part of the “family of faith” (v. 10). It is important—but not easy—to give and to receive care that includes a need for correction. We are to do so with gentleness, not forgetting our temptations to sin (v. 15). The “law of Christ” (v. 2) is to carry another’s burdens. As the Lord is our Good Shepherd, we are to shepherd one another in all humility as part of the “new creation” (v. 15). To follow this rule or principle is to share peace and mercy with others (v. 16). When has someone gently and lovingly given you important correction and guidance in the Christian faith? How have you tried to offer that same gentle and loving care to others?

Pray: **Almighty God, thank you for your care and loving guidance. Help us to provide that same gentle and loving care to others. Amen.**

SERVICE

The theme of comfort and caring for others runs through the scripture readings for this week. In Isaiah 66:10-14, Galatians 6:1-6, and Titus 3:1-8 the words gentle, courtesy, care, and comfort appear. There are many who need gentle care, the courtesy of a helpful hand, the care of a loving act of kindness, and the comfort of a warm meal or clothing. Where in your own community do you see a need for this theme to become a reality? What can you do to help?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The congregation is a place of worship, the home is too. “Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise” (Psalm 66:1-2). How do you make a joyful noise and sing praise to God in your home? Choose a favorite hymn of praise and make up hand signs or use sign language for key words. Sing it while using the hand signs as a way to remember the words of praise this week as you worship in your home.

