

JUNE 30, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Christ has set us free.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus
Monday	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21	Elijah meets God at Horeb
Tuesday	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Fruit of the Spirit
Wednesday	Leviticus 19:1-18	Living a holy life
Thursday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalms 16	Suffering and praise
Sunday	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Jesus sends out the seventy

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. **Galatians 5:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love and freedom, set us free today to love others with the love that comes from you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for the fruit from the earth that fills us with good things and for the fruit of the Spirit that we may love others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who sets you free fill you with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:1, 22-23)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Make Me a Captive, Lord



CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What is something you would like to be freed from doing?
- What is something you would like to be freed to do?
- How does freedom in Christ differ from simply being freed to do whatever you want?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Galatians 5:1, 13-25.

The central point of Galatians is, “For freedom Christ has set us free” (v. 5:1a). It is complemented by the remainder of the verse, “Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (v. 5:1b). Christians are to live free, but it is not any kind of freedom; it is one that does not succumb to the imprisonment of sin, a life of self-centeredness. Paradoxically, Paul writes about Christian freedom, “through love become slaves to one another” (v. 13b). Luther famously wrote a similar statement about Christian freedom, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” Christians are totally free to submit to others for the sake of love, the love of all neighbors, including one’s enemies. Paul wants us to focus on the life of the Spirit. Such a life snuffs out the “flesh,” the life opposed to the Spirit. Verse 16 can be translated, “Live by the Spirit, I say, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” That is, be set free by the Spirit and you will not lead a life controlled by sin (vv. 19-21). How does the fruit of the Spirit free your life?

Pray: **Loving God, thank you for the fruit of the Spirit that frees us from self-centeredness and unites us to the love of others, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



What makes someone an enemy? Who do you consider an enemy? Jesus commands us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44a). We are to love others as God loves us. Compassion and forgiveness toward our enemies is not easy but can be beneficial for them and ourselves. It is a Christian conviction to reach out and show God’s love through prayer and good deeds to those who are not our friends. Pray this week for understanding and reconciliation with those who you consider to be your enemies.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



As part of your home devotions this week, draw four or five different types of fruit on a piece of paper and cut them out. How is each fruit the same or different from the others? Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. How is each aspect of the fruit of the Spirit the same or different from another? Choose four or five of these aspects of the fruit of the Spirit and write them down on your fruit cutouts. How will you use the fruit of the Spirit in your relationships this week?



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