

MAY 13, 2018
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus prays for his disciples.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:15-26	Matthias replaces Judas
Tuesday	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Be perfectly united
Thursday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for all believers
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-5	Keep the unity of the Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." **John 17:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Jesus, thank you for praying for us and for all your followers. May we experience the unity of faith that you want for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food, God bless this day, God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God protect you and keep you safe from all evil. May you live in peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take, Oh, Take Me
As I Am*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Whose name(s) do you value and why?
- God's presence is known through the work of Jesus. Looking at what Jesus did and said, what do you know about who God is?
- John 17 is Jesus' prayer for his followers living in the world. The "world" represents that which is opposed to God (v. 14). How is Jesus' prayer for you, as his follower, important to you as someone living in a world opposed to God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26.

The apostles add Matthias to be part of the twelve as a way to replace Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus. It is clear that the selection of Matthias is understood as God's choice, just as God has called and chosen all of Jesus' followers. Interestingly, Matthias is never mentioned again in the New Testament. Matthias represents others who are added to the mission of the church, people like the Ethiopian eunuch, Lydia, the Philippian jailer, and especially Saul who becomes Paul. Reflect on how your own life is part of a long line of followers of Jesus over the centuries. Think about others who have shared God's love with you. How have they influenced your life of faith?

Pray: Dear God, I thank you for the gift and life of faith that enables me to be sent and to make your name known to the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Mother's Day is an opportunity to honor all women who have cared for you. In the church, motherhood is more than a family designation. It represents the important role of caring for and nurturing others in the journey of faith. The church in the New Testament is described as the "bride of Christ." People like Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene represent the love and care extended to Jesus Christ, the same love and care extended throughout the centuries to the body of Christ. Take time to recall, give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. You may wish to send them a note or offer them a personal gift to express your appreciation.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Psalm 1, people who are faithful to God's law (that is, God's teachings) are "like trees planted by streams of water." These trees do not wither but yield fruit and prosper. Similarly, the lives of the followers of Jesus do not wither as they are fed by God's word. To remember the importance of God's word in your life, designate or add a "faith plant" in your home. As you water it, recall the importance of the flowing waters of God's word that feed and nourish your life "day and night" (v. 2).



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