

OCTOBER 30, 2022
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's mercy frees us to care for others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus visits Zacchaeus
Monday	Isaiah 1:10-18	Justice is needed, not sacrifice
Tuesday	2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12	God will relieve their troubles
Wednesday	Exodus 34:1-9	Moses worships the Lord
Thursday	Psalms 86:8-17	Asking for help against enemies
Friday	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	Paul gives thanks
Saturday	Psalms 32:1-7	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	Luke 20:27-38	Jesus speaks of the resurrection

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:16-17 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, free us of self-centeredness that we may be freed to care for others in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you blessed Zacchaeus by joining him at his table, thank you for blessing us with your presence at this meal today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus bless you with the joy of a forgiven life. (Psalm 32:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's A Wideness in
God's Mercy*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Is caring for others or helping someone in need easy or difficult for you? Explain.
- How does having a loving and forgiving God free you to care for others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 1:10-18.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a religious life that pleases God. We are to worship and praise God with a merciful heart. What pleases God is a faith-filled life where people acknowledge their broken lives, seek forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-7), and do acts of mercy. For example: aiding those who are beaten down, caring for orphans, and being an advocate for widows or others in society. The way of life desired by God is not complicated: acknowledge our need for God, confess our brokenness, and serve those in need. This is a message needed in Isaiah's time and also needs to be known in the world today.

Discuss: In what ways have you been tempted to place your own needs before the needs of others?

Pray: **Dear God, give us a heart that acknowledges our need for you and seeks to do your will of love and mercy for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus was a guest at the house of Zacchaeus and brought salvation to his home (Luke 19:5-9). As a sign and reminder of Christ's presence in your home, set an extra place at your table this week. While you are eating, think or talk about what it means for Jesus to be part of your life. When you finish, pray: **Lord Jesus, thank you for your presence at this table and in our lives. Bless this home with your salvation. Amen.**



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