

JUNE 28, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

We are freed from sin to care for others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Genesis 22:1-14	Command to sacrifice Isaac
Thursday	Psalms 13	Prayer for deliverance
Friday	Acts 6:5-15	The arrest of Stephen
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, grace, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has freed you from sin bless you with a holy life and life eternal. (Romans 6:22)



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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:

- When have you been tempted to do something you knew was wrong? What happened?
- Should there be consequences when someone does something wrong? Explain.
- How does the Christian faith lead you beyond selfish desires?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith was license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul (6:15). What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power in the universe opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to that life opposed to God (6:4). What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “to God as instruments of righteousness” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. The life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend so Paul writes, “I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations,” so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence (v. 19). How does God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve in Christ’s name?

Pray: **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Leading a life as a follower of Jesus can seem to be a big task. In Matthew 10, Jesus reminds us that even the small things we do are acts of service, like giving a cup of water (v.42). Giving a drink of water, holding a door, and offering a kind word can make a difference in someone’s life. What acts of service can you do this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them. Whether mealtime or bedtime prayers, reading the Bible, singing hymns, or blessing one another, the faith practices we model in our homes live on from generation to generation. Make a list of faith practices you do in your home. What ones have you passed on to others?

