

APRIL 7, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Walking in the light of Jesus together.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Matthew 5:14-16	Let your light shine
Thursday	Psalms 27	Song of confidence
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Light shining in the darkness
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[I]f we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love and mercy, we thank you for the community of faith that helps us to know and experience your light and truth through Jesus, our resurrected Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, we thank you for this meal and pray that others may have what they need to live, serve, and trust in you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's light bless you with people filled with joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

This Little Light of Mine



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:

- Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive someone? Explain.
- Why is forgiveness important to Christian fellowship?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 1:1–2:2.

Linus from the Peanuts comic strip once said, "I love mankind... It's people I can't stand!" Living in community with others can be a challenge. For Christians, living together in community is God's gift for our broken and sinful lives. Sometimes, we deceive ourselves into thinking we are more deserving, better than, or more lovable than others. Confession frees us to welcome Jesus into our lives through God's power of forgiveness that is for all. This simple message of forgiveness is hard to experience, especially when there are people whom we have had a hard time loving or even accepting. God's light takes us out of our own darkness and brings us into a humble yet joyous fellowship with others. Unity and fellowship have always been at the heart of God's creative and redeeming work for all the world (Psalm 133). We are asked to be aware of our darkness and move into the light through the power of God's forgiving grace.

Discuss: How does confession and forgiveness of your own brokenness help you understand fellowship with others in a new light?

Pray: **God of light and truth, we thank you for forgiveness given to us through the suffering of Jesus Christ that we may have eternal fellowship with you and with all people. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to restore a broken relationship?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another during worship as an expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. This sharing of the peace relates directly to Jesus' appearance to the disciples when he said, "Peace be with you" three times (John 20:19-31). This week, when you are visited by others in your home or when you are visiting friends, take a moment to share the peace. As you shake their hand, hug them, or give a high five, greet them by saying: **Peace be with you.**



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