

NOVEMBER 4, 2018
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

To worship God is also to love your neighbor.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor
Monday	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Reciting God's word
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:11-14	Jesus frees us to worship God
Wednesday	Leviticus 19:1-18	Love your neighbor as yourself
Thursday	Romans 13:8-14	Love fulfills the law
Friday	James 2:1-13	Warning against having favorites
Saturday	Psalm 119:1-8	The glory of God's law
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“ ‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The Second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than this.” **Mark 12:30-31 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Nurturing God, may we receive your command to love you and others as a way to worship you and to bless all people with loving hearts. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Bless this meal, O God, we pray, and bless us too all through the day. Keep us safe and close to you, and kind in all we say and do. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God grant you faith to love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shout to the Lord



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you show love for God?
- How is the worship of God more than attending a worship service?
- Mark 12:30-31 links the worship of God with love of a neighbor. How does this influence your worship experience in the congregation? Your worship experience in the home?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

Verses 4-9 are called the Shema from the Hebrew word for “Hear,” the first word in this passage. It was and is recited twice a day by faithful Jews. It is also the positive expression of the First Commandment, “You shall have no other gods before me.” This and all of the teachings Moses gave the people were to be taught to their children as they recited and talked about God’s word. This reciting, talking, and teaching takes place “when you are home and when you are away” (v. 7). It is still true today that the most effective faith formation takes place through personal relationships in the home, especially with parents and grandparents. Reflect on how *Taking Faith Home* helps you teach and practice the faith with those you know and love.

Pray: Beloved God, help us to study and trust your word and guide us as we tell others of your message when we are home and when we are away. Amen.

SERVICE



Loving your neighbor is a central way to live out your faith and to love God. Christian love is not simply an emotion. It is a commitment to act on behalf of the needs of others. In both the Old and New Testaments, loving your neighbor includes loving those who could be considered your enemy (Leviticus 19:34; Matthew 5:44; and Luke 10:29-37). Choose someone who you would not consider your friend and yet needs God’s love and your love. Find a way to love that person with a smile, a kind word or message, or some other act that conveys care and concern.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus and the New Testament names Deuteronomy 6:5 as the great commandment (along with Leviticus 19:18). Deuteronomy 6:4-9 has been recited by God’s faithful people throughout history. Take time to recite these verses twice a day and talk about them. This is part of our worship and love of God and neighbors.