

Church Families to pray for this week:

Betty Apgar

Jason & Christine Benkoski & Family

Baird & Bodil Brandow

Don Casperson

James & Emma Barefield

Joy Beery

Pat Buck

Chris Caudill

Things I'd like to remember from today's service:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Weekly Scripture Readings

October 4, 2026

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.

Matthew 8:28-9:1 (NRSVue)

When [Jesus] came to the other side, to the region of the Gadarenes, two men possessed by demons came out of the tombs and met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine, and suddenly, the whole herd stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the water. The swineherds ran off, and, going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the men possessed by demons. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their region. And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town.

Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSVue)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 19 (NRSVue)

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 (NRSVue)

Then God spoke all these words,
"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.
"You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth....
"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work....

"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, October 5

Psalm 119:49-56

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

1 Peter 2:4-10

Wednesday, October 7

Psalm 119:49-56

Deuteronomy 6:10-25

John 11:45-57

Friday, October 9

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Ezekiel 39:21-29

Hebrews 6:13-20

Tuesday, October 6

Psalm 119:49-56

Deuteronomy 5:22—6:3

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Thursday, October 8

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Isaiah 44:1-5

Hebrews 2:1-9

Saturday, October 10

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Exodus 14:9-25

Matthew 7:15-20

Prayer for the week: Seed-planting, fish-netting, bread-baking, pearl-hunting God, you shape us into living parables. Pray with your Spirit in us so that we may understand our experiences as healing metaphors, and become creative and abundant stewards of the environment you entrusted to our love. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, October 11, are Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25 and Matthew 13:24-33, 44-52. Next week's message, "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like..." will be on the passage from Matthew. Next week is a contemporary service.

Questions to help you prepare: Is there one Kingdom Parable that stands out for you more than the others? Why? How are these parables the same? How are they different? What do they teach us about our call to discipleship?

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