

JULY 16, 2017
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Holy Spirit gives us our life in Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower and seed
Monday	Leviticus 26:3-20	A rich and poor harvest
Tuesday	Romans 8:1-11	Living by the Spirit
Wednesday	John 5:24-29	Hearing Jesus' words
Thursday	Hebrews 4:12-13	The word of God is active
Friday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's people will celebrate
Saturday	Psalms 65	God answers prayer
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death. **Romans 8:2 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us our life in Christ. Make us like seeds that fall on good soil. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

From soil and seed you give us food to chew. May we grow up your works to do. Our praise and thanks we give to you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's word take root in your heart. May the Holy Spirit set you free with life in Christ, and fill you with peace and joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Lord, Let My Heart be
Good Soil*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Is there something you would like to be freed from doing? Explain.
- Christ sets us free. What do you want to be set free from? What do you want to be set free to do in life?
- In Romans 8, life in Christ given to us through the Holy Spirit sets us free from sin and death. What does it mean to be set free from the power of sin and death?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 55:10-13.

Just as the rain and snow water the earth to produce food, God's word accomplishes what it promises to do in our lives. All of us are tempted to wonder at times if God's Spirit is alive in us or not. This passage promises to accomplish in us more than we could want or hope (Ephesians 3:20-21). Consider the times you have worried about not living as God's good soil (Matthew 13:23) then use the words of Isaiah 55:10-13 as a prayer of thanksgiving for making your life the good soil that receives life in Christ as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

Enjoy some time working in the soil. Work with soil in pots or planters or in your garden or yard. You may volunteer some time to assist a neighbor or someone in your community to work in their garden or yard.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Find the words and music to the hymn *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* on the internet or in a hymnal. Read Matthew 13:1-23 and then sing or pray the words of the hymn. Reflect on how our lives of faith are dependent on the power of God's word.



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