

JUNE 25, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking†
faith
home

Christ Jesus has given us new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Matthew 16:21-26	Taking up your cross
Tuesday	Luke 14:25-35	Counting the cost
Wednesday	John 15:1-17	Bearing fruit as disciples
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:7-14	Do not be ashamed
Friday	Romans 6:1-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 69:9-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God.

Romans 6:11 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for the new life you have given us. Help us to pick up our cross and follow you. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

You are so good, O God, your blessings overflow. Forever may your name be praised, in heaven and below. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God raise you up to a new life; may the Lord Jesus Christ forgive you all your sins so that you may live for God.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Amazing Grace

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you could do anything you wanted, what would you like to do?
- Jesus sets us free to a new life. How is that life different from a life controlled by sin?
- What does it mean that Jesus has given life to you (Romans 6:11)? What does it mean to pick up the cross and follow Jesus (Matthew 10:38)?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 10:32-33.

Jesus says that if you acknowledge Jesus before others, he will acknowledge you to his heavenly Father. However, if you reject or deny Jesus, he will deny you to his heavenly Father. What does it look like to acknowledge and tell others that you are a follower of Jesus? What does it look like to deny Jesus in front of others? In the Gospel of Matthew, only Peter denies Jesus, and he does so three times (Matthew 26:69-75). What does it say about the good news of Jesus that his final message to Peter is not judgment and rejection, but forgiveness and a call with the other disciples "to make disciples of all nations"?

SERVICE

Food is an example of life-giving power. As you give thanks to God for the new life in Christ, make a donation to a food shelf, help serve at a soup kitchen, or prepare a meal for others. Offer prayers for the needs of the hungry.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

According to Romans 6:1b-11, baptism joins us to the death of Christ by taking away the power of sin in our lives and giving us a new identity in Christ. Baptism also makes us alive in Christ with the promise of the resurrection. Dip your fingers into water and make the sign of the cross over your forehead or chest and say,

"[Name], you are a child of God. Your sins are forgiven and you are marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen."

Make this a way to give thanks and praise to God for the gift and mystery of baptism that slays sin and gives eternal life to your mortal body.



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