

JUNE 22, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God is with us in good times and bad times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus casts out demons
Monday	Isaiah 65:1-9	Righteousness of God's judgment
Tuesday	Galatians 3:23-29	The purpose of the law
Wednesday	Lamentations 3:1-24	God's steadfast love endures
Thursday	Matthew 9:27-34	Jesus heals three men
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 22:19-28	Suffering and praise
Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Psalm 22:21-22 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, thank you for accepting our complaints, our fears, and our praise, all part of what it means to be your faithful people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, during good times and bad times we receive this food with thanksgiving, giving you our praise for your goodness and mercy in Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God walk alongside you in good and bad times.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I'm So Glad Jesus
Lifted Me*



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:

- Who do you turn to for help when you experience a crisis?
- Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 22:19-28.

Psalm 22 is familiar to us because of how it begins: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus spoke these words from the cross. Psalms originally were not numbered but identified by their opening lines. It is quite possible that Jesus was referencing the entire psalm and not just the first verse. He could have been saying to us that all of Psalm 22 was his message from the cross. When we are in crisis, we can feel abandoned by God. This psalm accepts that very human feeling yet also moves beyond it to give praise to God. After a crisis has passed, the life of faith is able to once again declare God's presence and goodness. We are not meant to be left in torment but in the assurance of God's care. Psalm 22 is honest with our pain and sense of abandonment and also affirming that God's goodness "did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him" (v. 24). By referencing Psalm 22, Jesus claims our human experience of suffering and joys as his as well. Thanks be to God!

Discuss: When have you experienced a crisis but felt assured by God's care?

Pray: Merciful God, you know our thoughts and feelings; we thank you for walking alongside us in good times and bad for the sake of Christ Jesus the great healer of our souls. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who is someone feeling alone that you can visit?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The best way to understand faith is to experience it. Take someone on a "faith walk." Blindfold a friend or family member and take turns leading one another on a walk outside or inside your home using only verbal cues. Share your experiences and how you felt when you were blindfolded. Talk about what it means to live by faith in Jesus as our trustworthy guide and helper.



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