

AUGUST 11, 2024
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



As beloved children, be imitators of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven
Monday	1 Kings 19:4-8	Elijah flees from Jezebel
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:25–5:2	Rules for the new life
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1	Do all to the glory of God
Thursday	1 John 2:1-6	Christ our advocate
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 34:1-8	Taste and see
Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice of God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your saving grace and ask that your love guide our actions for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and the Bread of Life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we give you thanks that you are the bread of life that gives us hope, just as this meal today gives us daily strength. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of life, guide you as a beloved child of God.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Beloved, God's Chosen



WEEKLY MILESTONES

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:

- Talk about or reflect on a time someone did something kind and unexpected for you.
- You are a beloved child of God. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 4:25–5:2.

Since the time of the New Testament, the message that all our hope in Christ is based on God's undeserved kindness led some to think they could live however they wanted. It made human efforts seem unimportant. Yet, this passage clearly speaks with words that command action: "speak the truth," "do not grieve the Holy Spirit," and "be kind." These and many more statements set an expectation for compliance. However, the motivation is not to earn God's love. It is because of God's love that our only real response is to "be imitators of God, as beloved children" (5:1). We will never fully grasp the clear statement of God's saving grace and our response of love and joy. The point is that because we are beloved children of God, our life is not to desire selfish acts of evil but to love one another as a "fragrant offering" that expresses our thanksgiving and love for God in Christ.

Discuss: How do you show thanks for God's love and undeserved kindness for you?

Pray: **Loving God, your goodness comes to us anew each day; help us to respond to your goodness and mercy with love for others and a thankful heart through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, consider ways to help feed people who live with hunger?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus as the bread of life is the theme throughout John 6. Bread is a symbol of the food that gives us strength and keeps us alive. Make or buy a loaf of bread to share during a meal with family or friends. Begin the meal with the Mealtime Prayer in this Taking Faith Home. During the meal invite each person to take a turn to tell of a personal mountain high or valley low for the week. After the meal, bless one another: **May Jesus, the Bread of Life, guide you as a beloved child of God.**



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