

JUNE 1, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Love and mercy triumph over suffering.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in prison
Tuesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Christ is coming soon
Wednesday	Exodus 33:12-23	Moses' intercession
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Friday	Luke 11:1-4	The Lord's Prayer
Saturday	Psalms 97	The Lord brings justice
Sunday	John 14:8-17, 25-27	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

At the same hour of the night he [prison guard] took them [Paul and Silas] and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. Acts 16:33 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, just as you and Jesus are one, give us the grace and peace to be one with you and with all believers so that the world may see and believe. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God may this food strengthen us to be your faithful witnesses to the world that others may know your grace and mercy in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. (Revelation 22:21)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Take, Oh, Take Me
As I Am*



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:

- What do you think life is like for those who work at or are in a prison?
- Where have you witnessed the church at work in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 16:16-34.

The suffering of Paul and Silas is real. Their prayers and hymn singing while in prison are also real. The other prisoners are moved by what they hear. Two miracles happen nearly simultaneously. One, an earthquake opens all the prison doors, yet no prisoner leaves and two, the selfless acts of the prisoners lead a prison guard and his family to faith in God and "baptism without delay" (v. 33). This is the power of love and mercy over the power of abuse and deceit just experienced by Paul and Silas. This story from Acts serves as an example of the larger story of the church. Disciples walk with power, but that power does not keep them from being harmed. Amid trials and suffering, the work of the church continues. The church lives in a world that can seem unfair yet is called to respond with praise to God and love for all. The church grew in those years as followers showed the love of God. Entire households joined the church through the gift of faith and of baptism.

Discuss: How have you witnessed the gift of faith and baptism making a difference in your life or the life of someone you know?

Pray: **God of power and mercy, we pray for the work of the church and our witness in the world through acts of love and mercy in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show mercy to those who are treated unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 17:20-26, Jesus prayed that the love of God may be in his followers and that their lives as disciples would also reveal his love for others. Jesus prayed not only for his disciples but for all future disciples. He prayed for us. Disciples serve God through acts of kindness towards all people whether rich, poor, in need, from a different background, or non-believers. Take a moment to fold your hands in prayer. As you look at your hands, think about how Jesus prayed for you and about how you can pray for others.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, help us to become one with Christians around us, so that our love points others to you. Amen.**



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