

JULY 20, 2014
SIXTH SUNDAY OF
PENTECOST

We are seeds, planted to
grow in God's field.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

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| Sunday | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | The parable of the weeds |
| Monday | Matthew 7:15-20 | A tree and its fruit |
| Tuesday | John 15:4-8 | Bearing fruit |
| Wednesday | Revelation 14:14-16 | The harvest of the earth |
| Thursday | Colossians 1:9-14 | Growing in knowledge |
| Friday | Galatians 5:16-26 | Fruit of the Spirit |
| Saturday | Psalms 92 | The righteous will flourish |
| Sunday | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-53 | Parables of the kingdom |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Psalm 86:11 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Teach us your ways, Lord. Give us hearts that are not divided between you and other things. Amen. (Psalm 86:11)

Mealtime Prayer:

O God, thank you for putting food on our table, love in our hearts, and hope in our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you live and grow as a child of God's kingdom. May you belong to God, now and always. Amen.

taking
faith
home

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- When you hear the words *good* and *evil*, what comes to mind?
- In his parable about the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), Jesus tells us that evil and good are all mixed up together and sometimes very hard to tell apart. Do you agree?
- In the parable, who is given the task of deciding who is good and who is evil? What does this teach us about how to think about and treat others?
- What will God finally do about evil in our world? What hope does Jesus give to the people of God's kingdom (see verse 43)?

DEVOTIONS

In Jesus' parable, he spoke of good seeds that were planted by God and weeds that came from the devil. Set up two containers—one containing seeds and the other containing weeds. When you gather together this week, share what has been "seedy" in your lives (good things from God) and what has been "weedy" (wrong, sinful, evil). Pray for each other, asking God to protect you from evil and to help good things come to you and through you.

SERVICE

Romans 8:20-22 tells us that all of creation is suffering because of sin. Help clean up God's creation from its abuse by people. Go on a litter collection walk in your neighborhood or clean up a weed-infested area.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

July 22nd is the church feast day of Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene was one of the women who followed Jesus and was the first person to see him after his resurrection (John 20:10-18). There is an old legend passed down in the Eastern Church that says that when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb she brought along cooked eggs to share with the other women, and that the eggs miraculously turned brilliant red when she met the risen Christ. The egg is taken to represent the boulder over the entrance to the tomb of Jesus. Boil some eggs and then dye them red. Enjoy your "red" eggs on Tuesday in memory of Mary Magdalene.



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