

MAY 8, 2016
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+
faith
home

God is always with us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for the disciples
Monday	Romans 15:1-6	A spirit of unity
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	An appeal for unity
Wednesday	Philippians 2:1-4	One in spirit and purpose
Thursday	Ephesians 2:13-22	Christ himself is our peace
Friday	1 Peter 3:8-12	Live in harmony
Saturday	Psalms 133	How pleasant is unity
Sunday	Act 2:1-21	Filled with the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Father, I want everyone you have given me to be with me, wherever I am.
John 17:24a (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, may the Spirit of Christ unite us all as one in the church. Heal our divisions and unite our witness to you in the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, your love for us has filled our table. May our love for each other bring praise to you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you go into the world united by the love of Christ so that our love points others to you. Amen.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- In John 17:20, Jesus prays for us, his future followers. What does it mean to you that Jesus offered a prayer for you?
- What things cause people to fight? At home? In the church?
- Jesus prayed to God in Heaven that his followers would have “unity” (John 17:23). What do you think he meant?

DEVOTIONS



Jesus prayed that his disciples would be “one with each other.” Make Christian unity a focus in your home devotion times this week. Here are some prayer suggestions:

Sunday—Pray for peace and unity in your congregation.

Monday—Pray for peace and unity in your church denomination.

Tuesday—Pray for peace and unity in the homes of your congregation.

Wednesday—Pray for peace and unity between churches of different types.

Thursday—Pray for peace and unity between marriage partners.

Friday—Pray for peace and unity between parents and children.

Saturday—Pray for peace and unity in your own home.

Conclude your prayer with a candle ritual. Light one central candle and give each family member an unlit candle. At the same time, light your individual candles from the central candle. Pray this prayer together: **Jesus, Light of the world: Draw us to your light, so that we grow together, united in your love. Keep us at peace with each other. Amen.**

SERVICE



May 8th is Mother’s Day. Show appreciation to mothers, grandmothers, and other women who have cared for you. If a mother lives in your home, plan ways to serve her. If your mother is absent, take time to pray for her or say a prayer of thanks for her role in your life. If possible, phone or write to her.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



As you come to the end of the “Great Fifty Days of Easter,” recall that the Easter liturgy includes the words, “**Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**” Greet or text family and friends with these words of faith, hope, and love. Begin mealtime prayers with these words. Say goodbye to people with these words. Let the message ring in your ears and sing to your hearts as the church continues to affirm the resurrection and the joy it brings. “**Christ is risen, He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**”



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