

JUNE 23, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Jesus gives new life.

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 3:6-24	God's steadfast love endures
Thursday	Matthew 9:27-34	Jesus heals
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

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming through the city how much Jesus had done for him. **Luke 8:39 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Healing God, through Jesus our Lord, your love and faithfulness overcomes judgment and your desire for life overcomes a world of pain and death. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, it is your will that the poor shall eat and be satisfied. With this food restore us with faith and your good will toward all. Amen. (Psalm 22:26)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord heal you of all troubles and cleanse you with a loving heart.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I'm So Glad Jesus
Lifted Me*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you felt bullied by others.
- What have you done to reach out to someone being bullied?
- Human history is filled with individuals and groups of people being hurt by others. How does your Christian faith move you to action against ill-treatment?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 8:26-39.

Being burdened by personal limitations or even oppressed by others takes on many different forms. In Luke 8 a man was tortured by unclean spirits. We may not call our personal issues "demons" as described in Luke, but we certainly know of the hurts and harassments of physical and mental illness, of abuse by others, and even the more subtle, yet equally painful experiences of being ignored as though you were not even there. The reign of God that Jesus brings heals a world of hurts. In our story of the man with many demons, Jesus not only restores him to sit at Jesus' feet fully clothed and in his right mind, Jesus also sends him out to spread the good news to others. How has your life been touched by Jesus' healing and cleansing power? How has that impacted your life to share the good news of Jesus Christ?

Pray: Merciful Jesus, heal me where I have hurts and guide me to a life that cares for others in your name. Amen.

SERVICE



Whether a person is incarcerated for violence, being involved with drugs, or something else, there is a need for healing and forgiveness. There are many Christian organizations that reach out to those in prison and their families. Prison ministry gives hope through Jesus. The transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus changes their lives. Bible studies, worship, counseling, and prayer play an active role in the lives of prisoners through the work of these organizations. Is there a Christian organization near you that does prison ministry? If so, pray for them and their work. How else can you support them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus healed many during his ministry. Those healed by Jesus' touch ran and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The simple act of touch has been proven to strengthen the immune system. Whether physically or emotionally ill, placing hands on a shoulder or a caring hug can provide healing. The ritual of blessing one another by physically touching a person's hand or forehead and making the sign of the cross can have a healing power. This week when you practice the ritual of blessing in your home, say this blessing as you make the sign of the cross: **May the Lord heal you of all troubles and cleanse you with a loving heart.**



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