

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking[†] faith home

Christians owe their loyalty to Jesus alone.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Isaiah 57:14-21	A promise of health and healing
Thursday	Luke 14:15-24	The great banquet
Friday	Philippians 2:19-23	Timothy and Epaphroditus
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, keep us from all evil that we may delight in your word and follow your ways, through Christ our Lord, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Like a tree planted by streams of water, Lord, you feed us with this food and with your holy word that gives us delight. Amen. (Psalm 1:2-3)

A Blessing to Give:

Grace and peace to you from God the Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philemon 1:3)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Savior, Precious Savior



CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What does it mean to you to “follow the crowd”?
- When have you needed to step away from the views of those around you?
- How is standing out from the crowd at times an act of faith?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 14:25-33.

Large crowds were following Jesus (v. 1) and Jesus saw a problem with following him like a herd. In the 1950s, large crowds of adults with children in tow filled churches. However, those same adults reared the baby boomers that became the least church-going generation in United States history (at least, at that time). Being a Christian because everyone else is, does not provide enough of a motivation, and Jesus knows it. Jesus makes the strongest demands and challenges on his followers: that which you count so dear—family, your own life, all your possessions—cannot compare to the importance of following Jesus. Our identity as a Christian owes its loyalty to Jesus and Jesus alone, not pleasing large crowds. Eventually, the large crowds that followed Jesus turned away. Many of the crowded sanctuaries in the 1950s are no more. There is great delight and comfort (Psalm 1:1 and Luke 12:32-34) in being a follower of Jesus, and it is a joy much deeper than simply being part of a safe and lonely crowd. What makes following Jesus central to who you are?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, give me faith and courage to follow you, especially when it feels easier to follow the crowd that does not know your power and grace. Amen.**

SERVICE



Psalm 1:3 uses the example of a tree yielding fruit to describe those who delight in God's law: “but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2). This Psalm is an instructional one teaching us how to live in the world. The Psalm points out that we are to yield fruit fitting to God's law. What act of service to others would describe the fruit that you bear?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Paul wrote to his friend Philemon, “When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus” (Philemon 1:4-5). This love was a gracious gift of God. From whom have you received the gracious gift of God's love? Write a thank you card to that person this week and include this scripture verse from Philemon.



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