

JUNE 29, 2014  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF PENTECOST

God's kindness leads us to  
show kindness to others.

### 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.

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Luke 9:46-48	Welcoming the little ones
Tuesday	Matthew 25:31-40	Receiving Christ in others
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-10	Abraham receives three visitors
Thursday	1 Kings 17:7-16	A widow receives Elijah
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-3,15-16	Show hospitality to strangers
Saturday	Psalms 68:4-10	God settles the lonely in families
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my  
followers, you will surely be rewarded." Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

#### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, open our hearts to welcome you each day this week, and then to  
welcome others. Amen. (Matthew 10:40-42)

##### Mealtimes Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for blessing us. As we receive, make us ready to  
give. As you welcome us, make us ready to welcome others. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a giving, caring heart. May you know the full joy  
of serving others. Amen.

taking+  
faith  
home

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### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you needed some help and someone was kind to you.
- How has God been kind to you?
- God asks us to show our thanks by being kind, helpful and welcoming to others. What are some practical ways to do so?

### DEVOTIONS

Jesus said that anyone who gave one of his least important followers a cup of cool water—just because that person was his follower—would be rewarded (Matthew 10:42). Even small acts of kindness to others do not escape God's attention! Put an empty water jug or pitcher in your home devotion area. When you gather during the week, share ways in which you have been able to help others, whether in big or small ways. Each time someone shares, pour a cup of water into the jug.

Read Matthew 10:42 and say together this prayer: **Lord Jesus, thank you for serving us. Please make us always ready to serve others, in big ways and in small ways. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus said that anyone who welcomes one of his followers welcomes him, and in turn welcomes God (Matthew 10:40). Extend a welcome to an individual or household from your congregation or another congregation to join you for a meal in your home (preferably people you don't know very well). Discuss how best to make them feel welcome and divide tasks among members of your household (such as preparing your home, serving drinks or snacks, entertaining, cleaning up). Remember that in serving your visitors, you are serving Christ himself!

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Next Friday, July 4th, is Independence Day in the United States. Take a few moments on this day to give thanks to God for blessing your country. Talk about what you appreciate about your nation.

Next, read Psalm 117 and pray together: **Lord of all nations, we thank you for our nation and the rich blessings you have poured upon us. As we celebrate our freedom on this day, we give thanks most of all for the freedom we have in Christ. Lead us to use our freedom to serve others, and our blessings to bless them. Amen.**



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