

FEBRUARY 19, 2017
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY



We are to be holy as God is holy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:38-48	Jesus teaches about love
Monday	Leviticus 19:1-18	Living a Holy Life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 3:10-23	Unity of the church
Wednesday	Matthew 7:1-12	The Golden Rule
Thursday	Luke 6:27-36	Be merciful as God is merciful
Friday	Romans 12:9-21	Caring for the enemy
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Jesus shines on a mountain

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the LORD your God. I am holy, and you must be holy too!
Leviticus 19:2b (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, thank you that your love for us never fails. Help us to show love to others today, even when they hurt us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious Father, thank you for your loving care. Be with us as this meal we share. May your love be known everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you. May you know that in Christ, you are made holy. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lift Every Voice and Sing



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- When do you find it easy to show love?
- How do you want to respond when someone has tried to hurt you?
- Jesus tells us that we should not only love those who love us, but love those who treat us badly and pray for them. How can you show love for your "enemies"?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

Paul writes here that God's Spirit is in us and we are the temple of God. During the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King, Jr. and other Christians relied upon the non-violence of Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount to oppose Jim Crow laws and systemic hatred of minorities. How can being God's holy temple be a source of strength when you are being mistreated at school, at work, or other settings? Think of ways to respond to others in such situations besides hating those who oppose you or wanting an "eye for an eye". Pray for God's Spirit to guide you in conflict situations. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



In Leviticus 19:9-10, God asks the Israelites to be generous to poor people and to the foreigners who were living among them. When they harvested their crops, they were to leave behind some of the produce for these people to collect. Discuss with others how you might share God's blessings with the poor in your community. For example, you could purchase food items to donate to a local food pantry or make a cash contribution to an agency that helps those in need.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



This next week read Leviticus 19:1-18 aloud each day and reflect on these commandments as a statement of the holy path that you have been called to live through Christ. After reading the text, conclude with the words, "Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it" (Psalm 119:35).

Notice how Leviticus 19 repeats the words, "I am the LORD" numerous times. Those are words of assurance that we belong to God and we are holy. Each day that you recite the text, you may want to identify one of the commandments and meditate on it throughout the day.



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