

JANUARY 30, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



God sustains and delivers us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	The Lord chooses the boy Jeremiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Wednesday	Luke 2:25-32	Simeon praises the Lord
Thursday	Ezekiel 2:1-10	The Lord chooses Ezekiel
Friday	Amos 5:6-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalms 71:1-6	A prayer for God's protection
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Jeremiah 1:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus that others may see in us our faith in you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal; may this gift of food remind us of your care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Justice Flow like
Streams*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How do you feel when you want to be part of a group but are not invited to join? Explain.
- When have you been challenged to oppose others and speak what you believe?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 4:21-30.

Most of us want to be liked. Because of that, it is easier to follow the crowd than stand up for what is right, or in the case of Jesus and the prophets of the Old Testament, to stand up for God's word that opposes the preferences of the masses. God specifically tells Jeremiah not to fear those who receive his message as commanded by God (Jeremiah 1:7-8). Jesus boldly reminds his townspeople that God and the prophets of old had shown mercy to foreigners and enemies of Israel. Jesus must have known that was not a popular message. It is a reminder for us that popularity is not the goal of life. Faithfulness to God's rule and God's word is what we are to follow. The good news is that God goes with us to sustain and deliver us from evil, just as God did for Jeremiah and Jesus. That did not mean an easy life for either of them. However, there is a peace and confidence God gives that no crowd will ever provide.

Discuss: How has God sustained you during a time you felt unfairly criticized for what you believe?

Pray: **God of truth, justice, and mercy, give us your word daily that we may follow you faithfully and trust in you and you alone, through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show God's love to those who are less popular?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Epiphany is a time for public expressions of the Christian faith. This includes caring for those who are treated poorly, even bullied. Think of people who are picked on or criticized by others. It is an act of the Christian faith to speak up against those bullying others. Light a candle and say a prayer for your own courage to speak for those who are demeaned or otherwise persecuted.



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