

JUNE 4, 2023
TRINITY SUNDAY

taking⁺ faith home

Practice the faith to gain understanding.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples
Monday	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	God creates everything
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Live in peace
Wednesday	Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord always
Thursday	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	The great commandment
Friday	1 Timothy 4:6-16	A good minister of Jesus Christ
Saturday	Psalm 8	Divine majesty and human dignity
Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God in Three Persons, we thank you that you are with us always so that we may go out with your love, to care and serve our neighbor and the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your amazing care of us with this gift of food. O Lord, how awesome is your name in all the earth. Amen. (Psalm 8)

A Blessing to Give:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Living Breath of God

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:

- What is something you wish you understood about God?
- How does reading the Bible, talking with others, and praying help you learn about God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 28:16-20.

Verses 19-20 are known as The Great Commission. Jesus speaks of heavenly power given to the disciples and then sends them out to share the good news with the world. But in verses 17-18, some of the disciples have doubt. What happened to the doubting disciples? They are sent out to baptize and teach the faith. They are to baptize in the trinitarian language of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, wording not used earlier in Matthew. The Trinity has always been a challenge and a mystery. How do you have one God in three persons? Instead of a lecture on this point, Jesus sends out his followers to baptize and teach. Somehow his followers will grow in knowledge as they practice the faith. It is in practicing, teaching, and living the faith that we gain understanding. Part of that understanding is that our God is with us always and sends us out with the power to love, save, and bless.

Discuss: How have you learned about God and grown in your faith by practicing and living the faith?

Pray: God of power and might, give us the faith to go out into the world and rely on your presence to love, save, and bless in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you practice your faith and reach out to someone with God's love?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

2 Corinthians 13:13 is called the "Apostolic Greeting" (meaning related to the apostles) and has been used at the beginning of many worship services. It is often overlooked that much of Christian worship comes directly from the Bible. The Bible is sung, prayed, and read during worship. Christian worship can be practiced in the home as well. Practice using this shortened version of the verse when you greet or say good-bye to family and friends this week: **May the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the Holy Spirit be with you.**

