

OCTOBER 25, 2020
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

Christians form intimate communities of care.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Matthew 22:34-46 | Loving God and neighbor |
| Monday | Leviticus 19:1-18 | Love your neighbor as yourself |
| Tuesday | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 | Paul's life and work |
| Wednesday | Deuteronomy 34:1-12 | Moses is buried in Moab |
| Thursday | Psalms 90:1-17 | God is eternal |
| Friday | Hebrews 10:19-25 | Encourage one another |
| Saturday | Psalms 1 | The way to happiness |
| Sunday | Matthew 23:1-12 | Humble yourselves |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. **1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, you call us to love you and our neighbor. Give us courage to see beyond our own needs so we can see the needs of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you feed us with your living word, we thank you for feeding us with this gift of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and keep you safe that you may meditate on God's word day and night. (Psalm 1:2, 6)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Behold, How Pleasant



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:

- Who do you turn to in times of personal need? Why?
- Life can feel lonely at times. How do you overcome the sense of loneliness?
- The Christian community is present to love the world and to care for brothers and sisters in the faith. Talk or think about how Christians care for you.

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

Paul cares deeply for the church in Thessalonica. He says that Silvanus, Timothy, and he (1:1) care for the people "like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children" (2:7). Later he would add the metaphor of a father caring for his children (2:11). Paul and his missionary friends model a way of life for the church that deeply cares for the people. It reflects part of Jesus' Great Commandment that states, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). The heart of a biblical and Christian way of life is seen in the Great Commandment and in the way Paul and his friends model that love through an intimate care of others. Today different forms of small group ministries in the church seek to live in caring community through prayer, caring and supportive conversations (including correcting one another—see Leviticus 19:17), serving the needs of one another, and celebrating life together with a variety of rich and meaningful Christian rituals and traditions. How do you benefit from the love and care of the Christian community? How do you contribute to the care of other Christians?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for your parental care that feeds us and protects us. Give us the faith to care for and feed others with your love through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



The theme throughout the daily Bible readings this week is that Christians form intimate communities of care. How are you part of a Christian community that shows care for one another? In what ways do you serve each other's needs?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Prayer, passing the peace, and blessing others are Christian traditions. Make a list of Christian traditions done in your congregation. What Christian traditions do you practice or would you like to do in your home? Think about the impact this can have on your faith and that of others in your home.



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