

JUNE 9, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take, Oh, Take Me As
I Am*



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:

- When is a time you witnessed an act of kindness that was not well received?
- Many religious leaders did not approve of what Jesus did or said. Why do you think this was?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 3:20-35.

In this reading, Jesus' ministry creates controversy and conflict. It also brings healing, hope, and salvation. Jesus challenges families as well as scribes, those who represent the religious life of Jerusalem. Both our family life and our life of faith in the larger church need the power of Jesus. It is Jesus who can bind up the strong man, an image of Satan. Jesus binds and limits the powers of evil as well as unbinds people needing healing and forgiveness. The eternal sin of speaking against the Holy Spirit is rejecting the divine goodness in Jesus. Opposing the work of the kingdom that Jesus brings denies the power of God to heal and to save. The conflict presented by the kingdom of God is either believing or not believing in the divine power of Jesus. The will of God is to listen to and believe in Jesus. It is the merciful power of God that heals our lives and is intended for our homes and our congregations.

Discuss: When have you gone through a tough time and then experienced the power of God's care and mercy?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us faith and confidence to reject evil and to see your goodness and mercy in the world through the power of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you do the will of God by reaching out to someone in need of healing?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalm 130 is a prayer for forgiveness and mercy. Recognizing our sin and need for God's mercy and forgiveness is a wonderful gift of faith. The prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer, teaches us to ask for forgiveness. Write the words "forgive us our sins (trespasses) as we forgive those who sin (trespass) against us." Use the paper as a bookmark for Bible readings. Finish by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Following Jesus is the will of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:8-15	The Lord is patient
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:7-12	Treasure in clay jars
Saturday	Psalm 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And looking at those who sat around him, he [Jesus] said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:34-35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to see your power of love and mercy in the world through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for providing us with this meal and everything we need for daily life. Help us to recognize your goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of Jesus give you peace in knowing God's steadfast love.



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