

MARCH 18, 2018  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*How do we see Jesus?*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 12:20-33</b>	<b>The grain of wheat that dies</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:31-34</b>	<b>A new covenant from God</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Hebrews 5:5-10</b>	<b>Jesus as high priest</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>John 20:24-29</b>	<b>Thomas sees and believes</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Kings 19:11-18</b>	<b>Elijah meets God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 5:14-21</b>	<b>Christ died for all</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 51:1-12</b>	<b>A prayer for cleansing</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 15:1-39</b>	<b>The passion of Jesus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[Some Greeks] came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **John 12:21 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you in your cross and empty tomb. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

You feed the hungry with grains of wheat. Thank you Lord, for this food to eat. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord your God grant you the joy of your salvation and sustain you with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:12)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Now the Green Blade  
Rises*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Think of a specific friend or family member. How would you describe that person to someone else?
- As in the days of Jesus, we still long to see Jesus. How do you see Jesus in the world today?
- Jesus said that now was the time for the Son of Man to be glorified. In John, Jesus' glorification happens in his death and resurrection. Why do you think Jesus answered this way when someone asked to see him?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: John 12:20-33.*

Some Greeks, that is people from another culture than that of the disciples, want to see Jesus. Philip and Andrew bring the request to Jesus. Jesus responds by saying the hour has now come and only the buried grain that dies in the earth will bring lots of fruit. He continues to point out that to serve Jesus is to follow Jesus. To see Jesus is to follow the way of the cross, the way of death and resurrection, the way of self-sacrifice for a greater gain (v. 25). Jesus connects seeing him with his way of the cross (death and new life) and with his disciples living a similar pattern of life. Reflect on how being a follower of Jesus helps others to see him. How do others see Jesus through the hurts and disappointments of life?

*Pray: Dear Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you in your cross and empty tomb. Amen.*

### SERVICE

In Psalm 51:12, the psalmist prays, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." In the Bible a willing spirit includes the desire for justice and mercy, the kind that cares for the widow and orphan, that is, those who do not have the resources to take care of basic human needs for survival. As part of your Lenten discipline, make a financial contribution to an organization that cares for those in need or serve in an organization that offers care to others.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

People often buy flowers to place in the sanctuary during Easter worship as a sign of new life that has come through the death and resurrection of Jesus. After Easter worship, gift the flowers to someone with a special note that includes a traditional Easter response: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



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