

JUNE 10, 2018
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The will of God is for us to be a follower of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| 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 | Hosea 14:1-9 | Plea for repentance |
| Thursday | Hebrews 10:19-25 | Care for the community of faith |
| Friday | Matthew 8:1-4 | Jesus cleanses a leper |
| Saturday | Psalms 130 | Prayer of lament and hope |
| Sunday | Mark 4:26-34 | The use of parables |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.
Mark 3:35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Beloved God, thank you for making us family with people near and far. Help us to care for your church throughout the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, thank you for all you give so we are fed. May we love you back from toe to head. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with hope and the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 130:7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Are Welcome Here



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What activities bring family and friends together?
- How does faith in God affect our relationships with others?
- Being part of the community that follows Jesus—that is, being his family—is doing the will of God (Mark 3:34-35). How do you follow Jesus? How do others you know follow Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Genesis 3:8-15.

It is the story that describes the origin of sin in the world. The western church has generally described sin as disobedience. The eastern church has more often seen sin as being deceived or being tricked (Genesis 3:13). As rational creatures, we can justify so many of our actions and deceive ourselves or let ourselves be deceived by others. In Mark 3:20-35 scribes who had just witnessed Jesus' healing work described him as doing the work of Satan (Mark 3:22-29). The scribes deceived themselves by not acknowledging that Jesus was doing the work that was opposed to Satan. Think of how we deceive ourselves today and commit sin by denying the work of Jesus in our lives and the world.

Pray: Dear merciful God, cleanse us from our sins. Help us to see you and your healing and forgiving work in our lives and in our world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SERVICE



All who follow Jesus are made part of his family (Mark 3:34-35). As those who are made family members to one another through Jesus Christ, commit to some form of care for the church locally or around the world. Consider offering prayers for your brothers and sisters in Christ living in places where it is difficult to be Christian. Pray for the courage of faith for those near and far. Contact a fellow Christian to listen to them and offer your care, support, and prayers.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Recognizing our sin and need for God's mercy and forgiveness is a wonderful gift of faith (Psalm 130). The Jesus Prayer acknowledges our sin and also shows that God has mercy on us, as sinners. It comes to us through the Eastern Orthodox tradition. There are three stages: pray out loud, pray silently, and pray descending from the mind to the heart. Use one of the following versions for the Jesus Prayer: **"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."** or **"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us."** Pray this during the week and consider praying the Jesus Prayer in the future as well.



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