

JUNE 17, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

The kingdom of God is experienced more than explained.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	The use of parables
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Living by faith
Wednesday	Proverbs 3:1-12	Trusting in God
Thursday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Friday	Revelation 21:22–22:5	The tree of life
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	A song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—we walk by faith, not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:6-7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, help us to see with eyes of faith that your kingdom is present in our lives and world bringing mercy and steadfast love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

God has planted, God has fed. Thanks be to God for daily bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love give you a thankful heart morning and night and all the day long. (Psalm 92:1-2)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Walk by Faith

taking† faith home

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about something you have learned this past year. How did you learn it?
- Having confidence is about support as well as having skills and information. Who or what gives you a sense of confidence?
- The Apostle Paul writes, "...we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:6). How does that give you confidence in your daily life of faith?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

Jesus talks about the kingdom of God in parables. It is acknowledged that the ability to hear and understand these parables varied according to the listener. He explained them privately to his disciples. The key to understanding parables is doing the will of God. This means following Jesus and being part of his community, his family (Mark 3:34-35). The two parables in this text describe growth through the image of plant life. Growth happens without our full comprehension of how the plants develop. In the kingdom of God growth happens as God's will is done through Jesus. It may not be easily understood, but the fruit of the work of the kingdom does show forth in the world. Reflect on how you experience the kingdom of God as a follower of Jesus in a community of faith.

Pray: God of life and growth, we thank you that your kingdom has come to dwell among us and promises to continue with us and to bear fruit. Bless us with faith that trusts that your work is being done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Father's Day is a time to honor the men in our lives who have cared for us and supported us over the years. Connect with a dad, grandfather, uncle, or other mentor and go outdoors to enjoy God's creation together. Enjoy the time together by walking side by side. Talk about some of your life experiences and how you have grown over the years.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Walking in creation has been shown to be a healthy experience, impacting our body chemistry and immune system. It also impacts our life of faith. Psalm 92 compares the life of faith with the growth of a palm and cedar tree. Make time to go for a walk in creation regularly. Before you walk each time, take time to pray this prayer: **Dear God, you who give us creation to see life and growth, guide our lives of faith to reflect your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.**



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