

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Isaiah 41:4,8-14	The Lord is with the last
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:5-9	God's ways are not our ways
Wednesday	Philippians 1:21-30	Greatness through Christ
Thursday	Matthew 19:23-20	The last will be first
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:25-31	God foolishness and human wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 92	The wisdom of God's thoughts
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

No matter what happens, live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ.  
*Philippians 1:27a (NIRV)*

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord, you are so generous to us. Help us to be generous to others. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, great and good, we thank you for our daily food. Bless our meal and with us stay, guide and keep us through this day. Amen.*

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be kind to you, and help you to live for him. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when life was hard for you.
- Even when he was in prison, the apostle Paul continued to encourage the Christians in Philippi to stick together in their faith (Philippians 1:21-30). How can Christians support each other when things get hard?
- Paul encourages us to live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ, including in difficult times. In what ways can we do this?

### DEVOTIONS:

When Jonah was thrown overboard into the sea, God kept him from drowning by sending a whale to swallow him (Jonah 1:15-17). When you gather for your evening meals this week, share ways in which God provided for you during the day. Say a prayer of thanks to God for his provision.

### SERVICE:

Psalms 145:4 says: *"Each generation will announce to the next your wonderful deeds."* Talk about people from older or younger generations who have shared Christ with you. Draw them a picture, make them a card or write them a note to say thanks. If possible, invite them to your home to share a meal with you.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

September 21 is the day on which the Christian church remembers the apostle Matthew, one of the Jesus' original twelve disciples. One day, while seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at Matthew (also called Levi) and said two words: "Follow me." This was all that was needed to make Matthew rise and leave behind his pieces of silver to follow Christ. Matthew then hosted a great banquet at his home to which he invited his fellow tax collectors. The Jews were surprised to see Jesus with a tax collector, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Luke 5:27-32).

Host a "Matthew Party" at your home this week. Invite friends from your church to join you. Share your favorite stories from the Gospel of Matthew and whatever information you can discover from books or the internet about the later life and ministry of St. Matthew.