

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 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Matthew 5:38-48	Loving your enemies
Tuesday	Matthew 18:6-10	Don't cause others to stumble
Wednesday	Luke 6:37-42	Forgive and you will be forgiven
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-15	Forgive as the Lord forgave you
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Do not sin in your anger
Saturday	Psalms 32	Blessed are the forgiven
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

"Where two or three people meet together in my name, I am there with them."

Matthew 18:20 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please help us to love others as much as ourselves today. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

As two or more do gather here, we thank you, Christ, for coming near. Please bless this food and our home too, that we may shine with love for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus be with you. May you be one with him, and at peace with others. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Martin Luther shared his thoughts on forgiveness in the Fifth Part of the Lord's Prayer in his Small Catechism ("Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."):

"We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we sin daily and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us."

- What do you think it means to forgive someone? Do you find it difficult or easy to forgive? Why?
- This is what God's forgiveness mean to Luther. What does God's forgiveness mean to you?
- How does God's forgiveness change the way we see and treat other people when they sin against us?

DEVOTIONS:

As part of your household devotional times this week, spend a few minutes admitting your sins to each other, and asking for and receiving words of forgiveness.

Each person may say: *"I am sorry for (name a particular thing) and ask you to forgive me."*

Others may respond: *"God has forgiven me, and I forgive you in his name."*

Express your forgiveness with a handshake, hug or kiss.

SERVICE:

Challenge members of your household to each do at least one act of kindness for another person every day this week (whether at school, work or at home). Report on your efforts at evening mealtimes. Share about how your acts of kindness were received by others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Jesus promises that wherever two or three people come together in his name, he is with them (Matthew 18:20). This week, light a candle when you meet as a household to symbolize Christ's presence with you, and say together the verse for this week.