

**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 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Luke 9:46-48	Welcoming the little ones
Tuesday	Matthew 25:31-40	Receiving Christ in others
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-10	Abraham receives three visitors
Thursday	Romans 6:20-23	God gives eternal life
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-3,15-16	Show hospitality to strangers
Saturday	Psalms 68:4-10	God sets the lonely in families
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19,25-30	Rest for the weary

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Romans 6:23 (CEV)*

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord, open our hearts to welcome you this day, and then to welcome others. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Upon this table food is spread, which we are blessed to share. We thank you, God, for daily bread and for your endless care. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God, who has set you free from sin, lead you to do what is right and give you eternal life. Amen.

## CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is the best birthday or Christmas gift you have ever received?
- What is God's great gift to us? (read Romans 6:23). How is a gift different from a reward or a wage?
- Does this gift of God change the way you see and treat others? In what ways?

## DEVOTIONS:

Jesus said that anyone who gave one of his least important followers a cup of cool water - just because that person was his follower - would be rewarded (Matthew 10:42). Even small acts of kindness to our fellow Christians do not escape God's attention! For your home devotion times this week, set out a pitcher of water and a glass for each person. Take turns filling one another's glasses. Read Matthew 10:42 and say together this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for serving us. Please make us always ready to serve others, in big ways and in small ways. Amen."*

## SERVICE:

Extend a welcome to an individual or household from your congregation or another congregation to join you for a meal in your home (preferably people you don't know very well). Discuss how best to make them feel welcome and divide tasks among members of your household (e.g. preparing your home, serving drinks or snacks, entertaining, cleaning up). Remember that in serving your visitors you are serving Christ himself!

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Psalm 89:1 says *"I will sing of your love forever."* Many people sing songs to ease their work or entertain guests. Make a list of your household's favorite Christian hymns and songs, and choose some new ones you would like to learn and share. Make up a household songbook for use at home and when traveling.