

JUNE 16, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We walk by faith, not by sight.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-3	The meaning of faith
Thursday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	Song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the waters

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—for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, in the midst of things we cannot understand or accept, give us confidence that your goodness and mercy will triumph through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you bring a harvest full of good things; we thank you for this food and all that you do to guide our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and wisdom of God be your strength.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Walk by Faith



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that is happening in your life or world that seems hard to understand?
- What is your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

The Gospel of Mark was written around 70 A.D. during a very chaotic period of history in Jerusalem and in the surrounding Jewish lands. Roman soldiers were everywhere and the holy temple, with all its hope and promise for the people, was doomed to destruction. The earliest followers of Jesus were unsure how to be disciples, who was to be included in the community of faith, and how to address Gentiles and ruling powers alike. Mark writes about the kingdom of God that grows like a seed sown by a farmer. The seed grows one stage at a time even while the farmer sleeps. The farmer who planted the seeds is not sure how it is all happening just as the disciples are unsure about growing God's kingdom. Nothing stops the growing seed and nothing stops the kingdom of God. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 that "[W]e walk by faith, not by sight". We are part of a kingdom whose standards and powers are not fully understood. Especially when things are confusing, we trust God's work, God's promises, and God's judgments. Faith trusts that God is in control.

Discuss: When you experience confusing times in your life, does faith in God give you confidence?

Pray: **God of the harvest, we thank you for the work of your kingdom that brings hope where there is pain, and confidence where there is uncertainty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is struggling with a decision?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Sunday is Father's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all men who have cared for you and others as well. Take time to talk about, give thanks, and reach out to the men who have parented and cared for you.

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for fathers and all men who care for us. We especially give thanks for [name/s of men] who have been a blessing to 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