

JULY 7, 2024
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's power is made perfect in weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve
Monday	Ezekiel 2:1-5	The Lord chooses Ezekiel
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Paul's vision
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock
Thursday	Isaiah 43:1-3	Restoration promised
Friday	Romans 8:26-27	Spirit intercedes for us
Saturday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore I [Paul] am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who conquer all powers from the cross, guide us to a life of faith, hope, and love for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, and that you show us mercy and kindness each day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a humble heart and faith in Christ.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Just a Closer Walk with Thee



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:

- When have you experienced rejection from friends or family?
- How can God use your weaknesses to bring healing and hope to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10.

Christian spirituality is a way of life that is shaped by the gospel. Paul says he could boast about a mystical spirituality, but he refuses (vv. 2-5). Instead, he lifts up his weakness *“for the sake of Christ”* (v. 10). In a world that seeks wisdom, power, and mystical experiences, Paul’s message to the Corinthians and to us is a cautionary note. Christian spirituality for Paul is a life lived for the sake of Christ that is grounded in *“weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities”* (v. 10). Humble experiences open us to a strength, a wisdom, and a transformed life. This is a life very different from one that some in the Corinthian church promoted to show their godliness. In Mark 6 Jesus experiences rejection yet sends his disciples out with power and authority. Today, God’s mercy, grace and healing power may look fragile, yet it is clothed in a gospel strength that changes lives.

Discuss: When have you experienced a difficult moment that was transformed by God’s grace and power?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to trust in your power that humbles the mighty and lifts up those experiencing insults, hardships, and persecutions for the sake of 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 experiencing a hardship?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 6, Jesus sends out his disciples with very little to sustain their trip. They are to rely on the hospitality of others. The church was built on the humble act of being dependent on the generosity of others. Set out a cup in your home to remind you that God fills your cup (the *“daily bread”* you need), often through others. Let the cup remind you to be ready to receive the kindness of others as well as to be kind to others. When you set out the cup, pray the Lord’s Prayer.



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