

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus wants us to be at peace with one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Mark 9:38-50 | Avoiding sin |
| Monday | Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 | Moses and the elders |
| Tuesday | James 5:13-20 | The power of prayer |
| Wednesday | Matthew 5:9 | Blessed are the peacemakers |
| Thursday | Psalms 4 | An evening prayer |
| Friday | 2 Thessalonians 3:16-17 | Final greetings |
| Saturday | Psalms 19:7-14 | The wonders of God |
| Sunday | Mark 10:2-16 | Jesus blesses the children |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But Jesus said, "do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us." Mark 9:39-40 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of peace, we thank you for all those who do acts of kindness and mercy in your name through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that we eat and your love that we receive through this meal, we give you our thanks and praise. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God give you peace in Jesus' name.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK 

I've Got Peace Like a River



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:

- Think or talk about a time when someone unexpectedly did something kind for you.
- How can assistance from someone you didn't expect help from be seen as the work of God and give you peace?

DEVOTIONS 

Read: Mark 9:38-50.

What Jesus says in this reading is difficult to understand and seems very harsh. Jesus knows his life will not be easy and that following him will not be easy either. A *Caring Conversation* question once asked, "When have you felt judged for your faith?" One person's answer was, "from fellow Christians!" That responder noted that it was also easy for him to look down on other Christians who are not like himself. We tend to want other believers to fall into our own patterns and ways of being a Christian. Jesus clearly rejects this attitude for his disciples. If others are doing good deeds in Jesus' name but are not a member of your congregation or denomination, leave them alone! Otherwise, we may be causing someone to unnecessarily trip and fall, and they can be seriously hurt in the process. In the strongest terms possible, Jesus cautions us not to be the cause of others to stumble and fall. That is not the way of a follower of Jesus. Jesus wants us to *"be at peace with one another"* (v. 50).

Discuss: In what ways can you communicate a message of peace with others?

Pray: **God of steadfast love, help us to support the faith and efforts of Christians who do acts of love and mercy that may be different from our own, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE 

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, identify and thank people who offer valuable care to others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS 

Psalm 19 says that God's commands and teachings are more precious than gold and sweeter than honey (v. 10). We are called to carry these commands and teachings with us like jewelry and to take them in like a favorite food. One way we can carry God's commands and teachings with us in our daily lives is through the memorization of Bible verses. Write this verse from Psalm 19:14 on a piece of paper, *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* Read this verse repeatedly until it is memorized.



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