

OCTOBER 3, 2021
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus heals and blesses the defenseless.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Mark 10:2-16 | Jesus blesses the children |
| Monday | Genesis 2:18-24 | God creates a human partner |
| Tuesday | Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 | God has spoken through Jesus |
| Wednesday | Psalms 147:1-11 | Praise the Lord |
| Thursday | Joel 2:18-27 | God's response and promise |
| Friday | Acts 3:1-10 | Peter heals a cripple |
| Saturday | Psalms 8 | God honors humanity |
| Sunday | Mark 10:17-31 | A rich man goes away sad |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"Truly I [Jesus] tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. **Mark 10:15-16 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of tender care, help us to care for creation, for human beings, and family relationships so that we may serve one another in peace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food we give thanks and praise that you are aware of our needs and care for us with your majesty. Amen. (Psalm 8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of God bless you to live, to love, and to serve in Jesus' name.



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OCTOBER 3, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come and Fill Our Hearts



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 words would you use to describe a good relationship with someone?
- What hurts relationships with others?
- God desires us to have life-giving relationships. In what ways can you fulfill God's desire for relationships with others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:2-16.

When we read that the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce, our bodies can easily tighten. Divorce has touched all of our lives. We know that at times divorce, as painful as it is, is better than remaining in a hurtful relationship. Jesus goes to the heart of the matter: God desires life-giving relationships, not divorce. Why is this so important? Because in Jesus' day women and children paid the greatest price in a divorce. Family life is foundational to our social fabric. For much of our history—and especially during Judaism of the New Testament—the protection provided by the shelter and wealth of a husband and father was essential to survival. Without it, women and children were left poor and ostracized by society. Today, men, too, can be the ones left with grief and distress. Jesus is speaking here to defend defenseless lives. He is teaching his disciples as they journey to Jerusalem to care for the helpless, the poor, and the socially dispossessed. This story in Mark about divorce, women, and children ends by caring for the two groups hurt most in a divorce in his day: women and children. He does not chastise them. He offers them his healing care, lays his hands on the children, and blesses them. How have you helped people who have been affected by divorce?

Pray: **God of life and healing, help us to care for one another and to protect one another with our words and our actions through the healing touch of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Genesis 2:18-24 has real humor woven into the story of the creation of the woman. The all-knowing God has difficulty finding a helper and partner for the human being just created. Finally, God creates the woman as the perfect match. In describing the greatest mysteries of life, the Bible can be playful. As you enjoy relationships with others, be sure to find time for play and humor with those around you this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Go outside at night this week when the night sky isn't hidden by clouds. When you go inside, talk about the beauty of the sky and the different constellations that you saw. End your time by reading Psalm 8. If you are with others, close with this blessing:

May the majesty of God bless you to live and serve others in Jesus' name.



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