

OCTOBER 31, 2021
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Teach the children God's love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor
Monday	Revelation 21:1-6a	New heaven and earth
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Reciting God's word
Wednesday	Hebrews 9:11-14	Jesus frees us to worship God
Thursday	1 John 3:1-3	Children of God
Friday	3 John 2-8	Working together
Saturday	Psalms 119:1-8	The glory of God's law
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Recite [the words that Moses commands] to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us the faith and confidence to love you and all people and the desire to tell your life-giving message to others. In the name of Christ, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May this food remind us of your care that we may love you with our whole being and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be freed by the power of God's love to love God and neighbor through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Loves Me



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 you are learning or have learned recently?
- What motivates or excites you to learn?
- What faith practices are a part of your life? Who taught them to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

When we consider teaching children the word of God, the commandments, and the good news of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we usually think of Sunday school. However, that does not fulfill the directive in Deuteronomy. We are to "recite" God's word to our children, that is, our grandchildren, our neighbor's children, and those who may live within our own homes. To recite the message means all the adults in the community of faith need to know God's word. We tell the "old, old story" when we rise and when we go to bed, when we are home and when we are not at home. Why? Because the good news of Jesus Christ is too important to our lives and world not to recite, teach, tell, pray, sing, and live each day. Loving God with all our being and loving our neighbor is a way of life. Programs like Sunday school and confirmation support the role of primary caregivers as those who are to live and speak the faith aloud each and every day. When, where, and how often do you pray, read the Bible, and talk about Jesus with others?

Pray: **Loving God, guide our words and our steps to give you praise and to direct others to the source of all life, love, and hope through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

We are all teachers of what we value by how we live and by what we say and do. Those whose work is teaching help us in our own role as teachers. Think of someone you know who teaches in a school, congregation or other setting. How can you express thanks or show them gratitude for teaching and serving as a role model for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Deuteronomy responds to a basic question of the faithful: will our children have faith? Deuteronomy answers this question repeatedly. The answer is that the next generation will have faith because we have spoken the faith out loud. Take time to read from a Bible, hymnal, or devotional book and reflect and pray on the reading so that you may be prepared to share God's love with others. End by praying: **Dear God, thank you for your love that surrounds us every day. Be with [names of people on your heart]. Amen.**



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