

JUNE 2, 2019
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus prays for us and the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in prison
Tuesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Christ is coming soon
Wednesday	Exodus 33:12-23	Moses' intercession
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Friday	Luke 11:1-4	The Lord's Prayer
Saturday	Psalms 97	The Lord brings justice
Sunday	John 14:8-17, 25-27	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." **John 17:20-21 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you have come into our world and our lives to love us with the love of the Father. Heal our divisions and unite our witness to you in the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen. (Traditional German table prayer)

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you and all the saints. (Revelation 22:21)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take, Oh, Take Me
as I Am*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What does it mean to be a follower?
- What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?
- In John 17:23, Jesus prays that his followers become one. As a follower of Jesus, what does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 17:20-26.

This concludes Jesus' farewell address to his disciples. It immediately precedes his return to a familiar garden where he will be met by Judas and the officials who will take him away to die. In the Gospel of John, those who are opposed to God are described as "the world." At the same time Jesus prays for his followers, he prays for the world so that the world may believe that Jesus' Father has sent him. Even as his own suffering and death was about to happen, he prayed for his followers and for those who would oppose him and his followers. God's work in Christ is the work of reconciliation that gives us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Jesus prays for unity and reconciliation even while the forces of sin and destruction are closing in on him. Understanding and resolving differences will require the love of the Father and of Jesus to be in us as disciples. Jesus prays for us to have a loving and empowering relationship to God. How would you, as a follower of Jesus, describe your relationship with God? With others?

Pray: **Loving God, come to me that I may love the world as you have loved me, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



In John 17:20-26, Jesus prayed that the love of God may be in his followers and that their lives as disciples would also reveal his love for others. In this passage, Jesus prayed not only for his disciples but for all future disciples. He prayed for us. Disciples serve God through acts of kindness towards all people whether rich, poor, in need, from a different background, or non-believers. How do you respond to Jesus praying for you? In what ways do you show love towards others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray in Luke 11:1-4. He taught them the Lord's Prayer, a prayer that is used during worship and one of the first prayers we, as followers, teach our children at a young age. In Luke 11:2 we pray, "Your kingdom come." After praying the Lord's Prayer, pause and think about how God's kingdom has come into your life through faith in Christ and a life lived to please God.



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