

MARCH 8, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*We are blessed to bless others.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 3:1-17</b>	<b>For God so loved the world</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 12:1-4a</b>	<b>The call of Abram</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</b>	<b>God keeps his promise</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 17:7-8</b>	<b>Trust the Lord</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 9:6-15</b>	<b>Generous giving</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Numbers 6:22-27</b>	<b>Blessing for the people</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 121</b>	<b>Assurance of God's protection</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 4:5-42</b>	<b>Jesus and the woman at the well</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Genesis 12:3 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, as you bless us each day in faith, help us to bless others through your never-failing love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Loving God, you who watch over our going out and our coming in, we thank you for this food that nurtures us day by day, through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord bless you with a living faith that you may be born anew each and every day. (John 3:3-8)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Bless Now, O God,  
the Journey*



### 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 does it mean to you to be blessed?
- Who has blessed you? How might you have blessed someone else?
- Abram and Sarai were called by God to bless all the families of the earth. How do you think this affected their faith in God and the way they lived?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Genesis 12:1-4a.

Abram and his wife Sarai (not mentioned in this text but part of the story) are sent on a faith quest. They look rather foolish to the world. They leave the security of a kinship community to go out and trust an unknown God while becoming foreigners in a strange land. The faith of Abram (and Sarai) in this passage is not defined by doctrines or clear convictions. Faith is a walk of life where people learn who their God is through a trusted relationship. This is true in the Gospel of John as well where faith is never a noun. It is always a verb, an action that trusts in a relationship that recognizes that one's entire existence is dependent upon God. This is what faith looks like. And it has consequences for others because faith is never a private affair: "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). How would you describe your faith as a journey?

*Pray:* **Living God, you call us to ventures we cannot fully imagine. Help us to trust you and know you will lead us all the days of our lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Psalm 121 is an assurance of God's protection. "I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (vv. 1-2). The homeless, hungry, and sick need protection. There are organizations that help with housing, food, and finances. How can you help those in need to know and feel God's protection in their lives?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the second week in Lent, light two of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "C", for Confession, meaning to confess one's sins and receive God's forgiveness.

*Pray:* **Dear God, I confess that I do not fully place my trust in you. Forgive me for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



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