

MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Love one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
Wednesday	Romans 12:9-21	Love with sincerity
Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	Jesus ascends to heaven
Friday	Leviticus 19:17-18, 33-36	Ritual and moral holiness
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
John 15:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious and loving God, give us the faith and courage to love one another as you have loved us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us to love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your love for God and one another give you joy that knows no end.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Oh, Sing to the Lord



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 makes it easy to love others? What makes it hard?
- How does Jesus' unconditional love show us the importance of loving others?
- How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection show us what true love is all about?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 15:9-17.

This passage intimately connects a relationship of Jesus and "the Father" with Jesus' own followers. The relationship is woven together through the language of commandments and love, and the two are brought together in verse 12: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." The Gospel of John does not have the "Great Commandment" dialog as in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. However, the theme here is the same: love God and love neighbor. The emphasis in John is that love is the way to have an enduring relationship with God and with brothers and sisters in the faith, those whom Jesus calls "friends." The word for friends in Greek is "loved ones." Love—not judgment and ridicule—is how Jesus relates to us. It is how we, as Jesus' friends, are to approach the world so that our joy may be complete. How does love change our relationship with others? How does a commitment to love others change us?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for showing us the depth of your love for us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



In the Bible, love is more than an emotion. Love is a commitment to care for others with our whole being. Conflict can get in the way of this love. Bringing God into our conflicted relationships can be a difference maker. This week think of those you have a conflict or tensions with, and pray to God for a clean and loving heart to reconcile your relationships.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The theme this week is "Love one another." May 9 is observed as Mother's Day in the United States. Reflect on the women in your life who have loved and cared for you. Think or talk about what you learned from them and how you show love to others. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for your love. Thank you for [name women who have cared for you]. Give us courage to love all people as you have loved us. Amen.**



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