

MARCH 5, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT



God loves us all through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world
Monday	Genesis 12:1-4a	Call of Abram
Tuesday	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	God's promise gained through faith
Wednesday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Thursday	Psalms 5	Trust in God
Friday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."
John 3:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, help us to trust in your goodness and mercy and not our own strength and have faith that you save the ungodly through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, you who watch our going out and coming in each and every day, we thank you for protecting us and feeding us with this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and joy, now and always.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Blessed Assurance



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:

- Do you think you deserve everything you have? Explain.
- God cares for us through a whole community of care. How has God cared for and protected you through family, friends, or mentors?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17.

Even though the Gentiles were not descendants through the Torah (the law), Paul is seeking to help Jews understand that Gentiles can also be descendants of Abraham. It is important to establish that God is reliable. The promise God made to Abraham—including Gentile nations—is reliable because the covenant with Abraham was established through faith, not the flesh. It is the very character of God to include all people, not just Jews. Whether Jew or Gentile, whether good or bad, God makes a solid, reliable, and saving relationship with us through faith. God saves the ungodly sinners. How can this be? It is because we have the God who creates out of nothing. God does not need to create children of God out of our goodness through the law. God takes our broken lives and makes something new because God *"gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist"* (v. 17). God does this so that all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Discuss: Where have you seen God's love for others and does it surprise you that God saves the ungodly?

Pray: **Loving God, you who give life to the dead and bring into existence what does not exist, thank you for creating us as children of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you offer God's protective care to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week consider an amount you might spend on yourself, and instead add that amount to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

Pray: **Loving God, we often forget about the needs of others. Help us to remember to give generously to those in need. We pray 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