

FEBRUARY 24, 2019
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Be merciful as God is merciful.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies
Monday	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Joseph reveals himself
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	The resurrection body
Wednesday	Genesis 43:16-34	Joseph is kind to his brothers
Thursday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Friday	1 John 2:7-17	A new commandment
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **Luke 6:36-37 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, let us follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

May this food give us strength to overcome anger and anxiety with love and mercy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord rescue you from all your enemies and be your hiding place in times of trouble. (Psalm 37:40)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When has someone showed kindness and forgiveness toward you? Explain.
- Tell or think about a time you showed kindness and forgiveness toward someone.
- What makes it easy or difficult to show mercy to someone else?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 6:27-38.

Compassion is a powerful force in life. We grow up wanting to be fair, but fairness is not as easy as it might first appear, especially when we try to see life through someone else's eyes. Finally, fairness falls short. Only kindness and mercy can heal relationships and give hope to a divided and broken world. Jesus speaks as a wise sage, one who points his followers in the direction of compassion that requires courage and strength of character, grounded in knowing that our God is the God of love and mercy. When the body of Christ speaks and acts faithfully with courage and strength, it speaks and acts with mercy. The church has little to say to the world if it does not know the ultimate power of God's mercy. Take time to reflect silently on the power, beauty, and grace of God's mercy. If you are with others, talk about your thoughts after the time of silence.

Pray: **God of mercy, give us the grace, power, and faith to trust you so that we can love our enemies, and give without an expectation of receiving in return. Let us follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.**

SERVICE

Sometimes it is difficult to love those near and dear to us. Jesus directs us to love our enemies and pray for them. Is there a person who is hard for you to like or makes you angry or afraid? Pray for this person and then think of an act of kindness you can do for this person whether writing a note or leaving a gift.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 encourages us to trust the Lord when we are being mistreated by wrongdoers. Feeling mistreated by others can make us feel hurt and our relationship with them changes. Write a list of people who have wronged you in the past. Then say the Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. Pause after "forgive us our trespasses (sins and debts) as we forgive those who trespass against us," and read the names you have written aloud or silently before finishing the prayer.



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