

JUNE 29, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus expects his followers to be all in.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Luke 9:51-62 | The cost of following Jesus |
| Monday | 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 | Elijah meets God at Horeb |
| Tuesday | Galatians 5:1, 13-25 | Fruit of the Spirit |
| Wednesday | Leviticus 19:1-18 | Living a holy life |
| Thursday | Matthew 5:43-48 | Love for enemies |
| Friday | 2 Timothy 1:3-7 | Thanksgiving and encouragement |
| Saturday | Psalms 16 | Song of trust and security in God |
| Sunday | Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 | Jesus sends out the seventy |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him [someone wanting to follow Jesus], "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
Luke 9:62 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Ever-present God, help us to see the world as you see it so that all our thoughts, words, and actions reflect your justice and mercy through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, for life and health and every good we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's Spirit guide you.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Spirit, Open My Heart



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:

- Would you describe your life as easy or difficult? Explain.
- Is following Jesus easy or hard? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 9:51-62.

Jesus leaves Galilee and begins his travels to Jerusalem. It is a pivotal move, one that will lead to his rejection and death by the religious leaders there. That critical move also intensifies what it means to be a follower of Jesus. There is no looking back. There are no excuses to attend to other activities first, including those that seem to be responsible and caring. Jesus expects his followers to be all in. In this reading, this is not the Jesus who reminds us of the power of God's forgiveness and grace. He is setting a very high bar, one that clashes with typical social behavior. Jesus expects a very different way of life for his disciples. It's not Jesus and other obligations working together with equal value. It is Jesus alone. Everything in life is to be understood through the life he teaches. His mission on behalf of the kingdom of God challenges everything we typically value. Since it is the good news of the kingdom of God that Jesus brings, then being a follower is worthy of our total attention.

Discuss: How does knowing that Jesus expects his followers to be all in, challenge the way you live?

Pray: Almighty God, through your kingdom our lives are changed forever; make our desires your desires and our priorities your priorities through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you follow in Jesus' footsteps to help someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Make a fruit salad. Buy a selection of different fruit and peel and slice them up. As you enjoy eating the salad, think or talk about who you know that has shown the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians through their actions and words. Write a prayer thanking God for the fruit of the Spirit you have seen revealed in those people. For example, "Thank you for [name] who has shown the fruit of love in you when ..." or "Thank you for [name] who I saw being patient when ..."



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