

AUGUST 24, 2025
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus heals on the Sabbath.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath
Monday	Isaiah 58:9b-14	Delight in the Sabbath
Tuesday	Hebrews 12:18-29	Kingdom that can't be shaken
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Remember you were slaves
Thursday	Mark 2:23-28	A question about the sabbath
Friday	Exodus 20:8-11	Remember the sabbath day
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-8	Praise for God's benefits
Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD." Isaiah 58:13-14a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you give us the sabbath for rest that renews our lives; may we delight in the life you intend for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and daily food we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with steadfast love and mercy. (Psalm 103:4)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Christ, the Healer,
We Have Come*



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 feel it is important to follow rules? Explain.
- How does God free you to do what is good and just and loving?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 13:10-17.

People responsible for leading communities can hide behind rules, traditions, or precedents that can keep them from doing the right thing. Jesus steps out and does the right thing at the right time. The sabbath is meant to free those enslaved and Jesus understands that. The woman was set free. The leader in the synagogue wanted to free the woman on another day, but obviously, it had not happened over the last 18 years. For the crippled and bent-over woman, her physical limitation not only brought her pain but likely isolation. Her restricted mobility limited her connectedness to others. For us, it could be some addiction, ailment, pained relationship, or a sense of powerlessness. Jesus made it the best sabbath ever for the crippled woman and for us. His actions brought joy to the woman and the community. Together they praised God. We are also called to care for the lives of others no matter what day it is.

Discuss: When is a time that you or someone you know has been set free from pain?

Pray: **Liberating God, you desire freedom, not enslavement, pleasure, not pain; give us courage to set people free from heavy burdens that we all may rejoice at your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ. 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 help someone to be set free from a burden?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The word sabbath in Hebrew means "to stop." Sabbath is a time of rest. It is a time when you take a break and do not work. Take a moment during your day to "take delight in the Lord" (Isaiah 58:14) by observing a mini-sabbath. Set all electronic devices to the side, turn off the TV, and sit down in a comfortable position. Take a few deep breaths, close your eyes, and rest. After your mini-sabbath, thank God for this rest that gives health to your body, mind, and soul.



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