

JUNE 21, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Christ gives new life to make a difference in the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael are sent away
Thursday	Psalms 86	Save me, Lord
Friday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old and the new life
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. **Romans 6:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to trust that all we are and hope to be is found in the new life we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all good things come from you; thank you for your goodness that gives us food to eat this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God set you free. (Psalm 69:18)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus, You Shall

Be My Song

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 are three things that are important to you?
- What do you think it means to pick up your cross and follow Jesus? (Matthew 10:38)

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 10:24-39.

Core values are important because they define what we stand for and who we are. Jesus says that following him is an all-or-nothing proposition. It is non-negotiable. Sometimes we must let go of what we treasure in life to gain what really counts in God's kingdom. In the process, Jesus gives several stark contrasts, many of which are hard to hear. Following Jesus will lead some to be rejected by family, which was a reality in first century Christianity and can be true today, too. Acknowledge Jesus and he will acknowledge you. Deny him and he will deny you. Amid these tough passages is Jesus' repeated theme of not being afraid. Jesus warns us not to deny him before others, but Peter does deny him three times before Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 26:69-75). Peter learns that mercy, not judgment, is the ultimate core value in the kingdom. God's mercy takes away our fear. Jesus calls us to make a difference and to rely on him. We all falter. Jesus doesn't. This is the dramatically different way of life that moves us from fear and judgment to grace and mercy.

Discuss: How does God's mercy help you face your fears?

Pray: **Dear God, may our life in Christ give us peace and good courage as we live each day with others. 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 encourage someone to be courageous and face their fears?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father's Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**



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