

JUNE 6, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Be careful of judging others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Thursday	Genesis 3:1-7	Adam and Eve eat forbidden fruit
Friday	John 8:39-59	Distinguishing truth from evil
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And looking at those who sat around [Jesus], he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” **Mark 3:34-35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to see your healing and saving work in our daily lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing us with hope in your saving work through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know you are brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Out of the Depths



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:

- When people disagree and are unkind to each other, how can they resolve the dispute?
- What is something you would describe as evil?
- The scribes described Jesus' healing others as the work of evil. How would you describe Jesus' healing of others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 3:20-35.

In the opening chapters of Mark, Jesus has already cast out demons and healed lepers and others with physical ailments, but scribes said he did this work on behalf of demons. To this accusation, Jesus states in the strongest terms possible that such a position is wrong. It is one thing not to see God's liberating work at play in the world. It is another to dare to call it the work of evil. The good news is that Jesus' work of healing (same word for salvation in the Greek language) is real and is meant to bless and save lives. In our age of divided loyalties and accusations, Jesus' words are a good warning to us not to judge others too harshly. Even though you may not see it, they may be doing the work of God to free lives and reconcile relationships. It is a sobering thought for sobering times. When have you felt that someone was acting in a way opposed to God's work in the world? Explain.

Pray: **God of power and might, in Christ's name help us to recognize your healing work in the world and be part of reconciling relationships. Amen.**

SERVICE



A life of service begins with an attitude of humility and repentance. Psalm 130:1-2 states, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication." We are asking God to hear our cry for help and our cry for forgiveness. God hears our prayers. Pray either alone or with others as you ask for God to hear your prayer of repentance so that you can be a loving servant.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Summer activities will begin soon. Talk about your plans and the changes in schedules. Conclude your discussion time with this prayer: **Dear God, thank you for school, work, friends, and family. As we begin our summer activities, keep us safe, renew us in body and spirit, and help us to show kindness to others. Amen.**



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