

JULY 22, 2018
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

People flock to Jesus as their shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals the people
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	God promises a righteous king
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:11-22	United by Christ
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Thursday	John 10:1-18	Jesus the Good Shepherd
Friday	2 John	Truth and love
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. **Mark 6:34 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you who care for us as a shepherd, guide us to care for others with your tender and healing touch. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Our Good Shepherd feeds us. Our Good Shepherd leads us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord touch you with love, show you kindness and bring you healing. (Mark 6:34, 55-56)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Have No Fear Little Flock



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you saw Jesus standing in front of you, what would you want from him?
- Jesus taught and healed people (Mark 6:30-34, 53-56). What has Jesus taught you? What would you want Jesus to teach you now?
- Jesus sees the people as sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). What does it mean to you to have Jesus as your shepherd?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Ephesians 2:11-22.

In verse 15 it states that Christ has abolished the law. That is not suggesting that we live without laws. It means that the law that defines the Jew through all their religious practices was no longer present to divide Jews from non-Jews. In Jesus one new humanity is being created; there exists one household of God—one people—to be a dwelling place for God (v. 22). What are the divisions you experience that separate followers of Jesus from being one people united by God? Identify the kinds of attitudes and practices that divide the one body of Christ. Offer a prayer that confesses these divisions that are present in you and in the larger church and ask to be healed of the things that divide us one from another in Christ.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



A shepherd in the Old Testament serves as a royal metaphor for the king (Jeremiah 23:1-6). In the New Testament Jesus becomes the Good Shepherd for all (Mark 6:34 and John 10:11-18). The future followers of Jesus also serve the ministry of teaching and healing that offer Jesus' shepherding care. A shepherd of souls is any Christian who offers the compassion of Jesus' love to others who need care. This can be done through listening, praying, speaking, and any other way to care for the physical and spiritual needs of others. Take time to wonder how you can offer Jesus' shepherding to someone in need, someone who needs a listening ear or any other way to be touched by the presence of our Good Shepherd.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalms 23 is one of the most familiar passages in the Bible, familiar because it touches our lives so deeply. When have you heard it read? Use the pattern of divine reading (*lectio divina*) to meditate on this powerful prayer. Read it once, then pause. Read it again and then pick out a word or phrase that shimmers, or shines brightly in your heart. Pause again, and focus on that word or phrase. Read Psalms 23 again and wonder how it speaks to you today. Pause and reflect. Read it again one more time and think about how Psalms 23 might influence your life.



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