

JUNE 26, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We are set free to love our neighbor.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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	Philippians 2:1-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Friday	1 John 3:11-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalm 16	Trust and security in God
Sunday	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Jesus sends out the seventy

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, thank you for setting us free to love all of creation, our neighbors, and those we have not yet met, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food remind us that you give us joy and that you hold in your hand true pleasures for us, now and always. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of true joy and peace free you to love.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

I Love to Tell the Story



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 have you used your free will in a way that did not help you or others?
- Give an example or think about how you used your freedom to help or be kind to someone.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Galatians 5:1, 13-25.

We like the idea of personal freedom; we are just not sure what to do with it. Should we take art classes to become an accomplished artist? Should we use our freedom to explore the world and delight in all of God's creation? Freedom gives us options that can make us dizzy. Paul has been telling the Galatians what it means to be justified (made right with God) by grace through faith. Here's the answer: it is to be set free. Contrary to many cultural and whimsical ideas of freedom, Christian freedom is quite simple: love your neighbor. You can't do that by feeding your own desires while being insensitive to others. You love your neighbor with the fruit of the Spirit that is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." That is what being made right with God looks like. It is the freedom to be a slave of—to be captive to—love, and only to love.

Discuss: How does self-indulgence get in the way of loving one another?

Pray: **Liberating God, fill our lives with the fruit of the Spirit, that we may love others with joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who is someone to whom you could show kindness and generosity?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make a tree shape out of cardboard or colored paper and cut-out nine fruit shapes. Write one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 on each of the cut-out fruit. Take time each day this week to talk about and pray for one or two fruit in your life. As you do, place the fruit shapes on your tree. Display it in a visible place in your home as a reminder of the fruits of the Spirit.

