

MARCH 30, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

God's generosity and forgiveness is for all.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

- Sunday** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Parable of the forgiving father
- Monday** Joshua 5:9-12 The passover at Gilgal
- Tuesday** 2 Corinthians 5:9-12 The ministry of reconciliation
- Wednesday** Proverbs 11:24-25 Be generous
- Thursday** Luke 15:1-7 Parable of the lost sheep
- Friday** Colossians 1:15-23 The work of Christ
- Saturday** Psalm 32 The joy of forgiveness
- Sunday** John 12:1-8 Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; lost and has been found.” **Luke 15:32 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God,
thank you for restoring us to a loving relationship with you and for sending us out to extend your love to others.
Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your goodness is beyond belief;
may we receive this food and your love for others with thankful hearts through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a generous heart.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

When Our Song Says Peace



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Have you ever felt judged for a choice you made? Explain.
- How would you describe God's generosity?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

People can easily identify with this reading. It is one of Jesus' best-known parables. In Jesus' day there was a culture of shame and honor. The shaming in this parable is clear. The father is shamed by the request of the younger son to take his inheritance early, and the younger son is shamed by his returning home as a failure. He has done so many things wrong. The older son might be shamed because the father is spending the older son's inheritance on an unworthy brother. He is angry. In our own context, shaming is still a reality but so is anger and family divisions. This parable challenges us to examine the generosity of God, let go of our shaming, anger, and judgmentalism. We are to welcome those who in our eyes are not seen as worthy and celebrate with them that God's generosity is for them as well as for us.

Discuss:

How does God's generosity and forgiveness challenge your judgment of a friend? a family member? a neighbor?

Pray:

Gracious God, you lavish your love on us in ways we cannot see and do not earn; help us to celebrate your goodness to us and to all through Christ our Lord. 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 who has been judged unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This fourth week in Lent we reflect on "*And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us*" (v. 4a).

Add this verse to verses 2a, 2b, and 3 from the first, second, and third weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



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

Go to: www.milestonesministry.org