

AUGUST 21, 2016
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+
faith
home

Lift us up to praise and worship you.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath
Monday	Psalms 103:1-8	Bless the Lord
Tuesday	Exodus 20:8-11	Remember the Sabbath day
Wednesday	Isaiah 58:6-14	Worship that pleases God
Thursday	Luke 6:1-11	Picking grain on the Sabbath
Friday	Genesis 2:1-3	The seventh day
Saturday	Psalms 92	A Sabbath day psalm
Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Lord is merciful! He is kind and patient, and his love never fails.

Psalms 103:8 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please set us free from all that cripples us. Lift us up to praise and worship you. Amen.
(Luke 13:12-13)

Mealtimes Prayer:

O God, who gives us daily bread, our thanks to you we raise. Be present at our table here, and fill our hearts with praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord forgive you, heal you, and bless you with love and mercy. Amen.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is the worst injury or sickness you have had? Share your story.
- Jesus met a woman who had been crippled for 18 years. What are some of the things that cripple people; physically? emotionally? spiritually?
- Jesus healed the woman, saying, "You are now free from your trouble" (Luke 13:12). In what way has Jesus freed you from trouble?

DEVOTIONS

In Luke 13:10-17, Jesus healed a crippled woman. He lifted up the woman and gave her a new reason to praise God. Psalm 103 is a beautiful psalm for those who have recovered from illness. Verses 1-2 and 8 provide the central themes of praise. In your devotions this week reflect on how God has lifted you up when you faced challenges or illness. Then, recite the Scripture Verse for the Week (Psalm 103:8), and respond to this affirmation of God's mercy and love with verses 1-2: **With all my heart I praise the Lord, and with all that I am I praise his holy name! With all my heart I praise the Lord! I will never forget how kind he has been.** (Psalm 103:1-2)

SERVICE

Isaiah 58:7 reads: "Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help." Plan one action this week in response to this verse. For example, make a donation to a food bank for the needy, give unused clothes to a charity organization, volunteer time at a soup kitchen, or visit an elderly person.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God spoke to the people through the prophet Isaiah about the Sabbath. God said: "Honor my holy day. Do not work on it. Do not do just anything you want to. Do not talk about things that are worthless. Then you will find your joy in me." How do you observe the Lord's day? Think about using one or more of these ideas:

- After going to worship, talk about what you experienced there.
- Talk about your highs and lows from the past week, and then talk and pray about the upcoming week.
- Say together, "This is the Lord's Day; we will rejoice in it."
- Set aside some quiet time for reflection and prayer. Avoid the use of any technology.
- Sing Christian songs.
- Bless each other using "A Blessing to Give."
- Enjoy God's creation by being outside.

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

