

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Take up your cross and follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Romans 12:9-21	Rules for Christian living
Tuesday	Matthew 20:17-28	Jesus again predicts his death
Wednesday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-16	Running towards the goal
Friday	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as a Christian
Saturday	Psalms 26	The prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me." **Matthew 16:24 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to follow you and serve others even when it causes pain to do so. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

For all we eat and all we wear, for daily bread and nightly care, we thank you, Heavenly Father. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's constant love preserve you and give you peace and good courage as you pick up your cross and follow Jesus.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lift High the Cross



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you supported a cause or a person who needed help.
- Sometimes following Jesus involves difficulty or suffering. In what ways have you experienced this?
- Jesus says, "If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you want to give up your life for me, you will find it" (Matthews 16:25). What do you think Jesus means by this?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 12:9-21.

The apostle Paul gives a beautiful and grace-filled list of the new life in Christ. Reflect on Paul's list of virtues for Christians, then make posters illustrating all the things these verses encourage Christians to do (e.g., love others, honor others, be joyful). Place the posters around your home.

Pray for God's help and guidance to live the new life in Christ.

SERVICE

Pick out one of the virtues listed in Romans 12:9-21. With prayerful attention and focus pursue this virtue with the goal of making a positive impact on another person's life this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make crosses out of paper or craft sticks. On the crosses write the words, "Take up your cross and follow me." Commit to carrying these crosses with you this week as a reminder of Jesus' call to follow him.



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