

OCTOBER 28, 2018
REFORMATION SUNDAY



God establishes a new relationship with us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	Righteousness through faith
Wednesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Saved by grace through faith
Thursday	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	But now my eye sees you
Friday	Hosea 2:10-15	God draws Israel close
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our protection
Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my Law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:33 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who forgive sinners and bring life to the dead, thank you for reaching out to us and claiming us as your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, we praise your name for you are rich in grace. Bless this food and all who gather in this place. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's word be written on your heart; may the Lord forgive you and remember your sin no more.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Out of the Depths
I Cry to You*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you picture God?
- What kind of image of God do you see presented in the world around you?
- Humans have struggled throughout history to get a clear picture of God and how to please God. If God only saves sinners (Romans 3:20-24), how does that impact a desire to please God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) struggled with how to please an angry, judgmental God, but when Luther saw the righteousness of God as filled with mercy for sinners, it changed everything for him and the subsequent history of the Reformation. If salvation is up to our efforts, even for one percent of goodness on our own, we are doomed. We can never be sure of our own acceptability before the God of heaven and earth. If salvation is a free gift of God's love and mercy, we live with faith and hope in the goodness of God. That is the message of Jesus and the New Testament. Through Jesus a new relationship to God was established. It is the new covenant—or testament—prophesied from the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Being saved is being made right with God (justified) through the power and grace of God received in faith. We cannot even boast of our faith, because it is all a gift from God (Romans 3:27). Reflect on what it means to be freed from the worry of our own goodness so that we can live for God and for our neighbor.

Pray: Gracious God, you who forgive sinners and bring life to the dead, thank you for reaching out to us and claiming us as your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

The Reformation emphasizes the priesthood of all believers. Not only do pastors have a calling from God, but all Christians have an important calling (vocation) in the world. Look at what you do with your gifts and passions to serve others and to give praise to God. Whether at work or at school or at home, give thanks to God that you have a calling that pleases God and serves others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help people study and practice their Christian faith everyday in the home. Faith, like learning a language, needs to be practiced regularly. Luther wrote a morning and evening prayer for individuals and families to begin and end the day in faith. This week use his morning and evening prayers (Find them in Luther's Small Catechism or simply do a search for them on the Internet). Add the Lord's Prayer and other prayers to your day and consider making these prayers part of your daily routine.



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