

MARCH 27, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Confessing our need for God brings joy.

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	Passover at Gilgal
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Psalms 103:1-12	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Thursday	Genesis 45:1-28	Joseph reveals himself
Friday	Luke 15:3-7	The parable of the lost sheep
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. Psalm 32:10-11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your love that reunites us to you through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored; your mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthen for your service be. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of grace bless you with the joy of forgiveness and new life.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
God of the Sparrow



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:

- Talk or think about a time you forgave a person or a person forgave you. How did you feel?
- How does faith in God help you resolve differences you have with others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

Recognizing our sin and need for God is foundational to the Christian faith. Lent is a time to acknowledge our sin, our separation from God. As the psalmist notes, "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven" (Psalm 32:1). Naming our need for forgiveness and receiving forgiveness leads to joy. The prodigal son experiences the surprise of his total acceptance and the waiting father experiences the delight of the return of a son who had been lost (Luke 15:20-32). We also experience the joy of the truth that in Christ we have been reconciled—reunited—back to God. We have been given the life-giving ministry and joy of telling the good news of God's reconciling power in Christ to all people. The challenge, of course, is that, like the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son, we may not want God's love and undeserved kindness to bless people who we might see as less deserving than ourselves.

Discuss: How does forgiveness lead to joy?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to be people of joy, glad that you forgive us and reconcile us to you and to all you create through Christ Jesus 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 might you bring joy to someone others see as less deserving?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a time to focus on prayer. We all have photo albums, whether printed or digital. Not all of our friends and family may know of God's reconciling power and forgiveness that leads to joy. While looking at pictures of family and friends, think about your relationships. Pause and pray for that person. Light a candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** Close with 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