

JULY 1, 2018
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

God leads us out of sad times to joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life
Monday	Lamentations 3:22-33	There is still hope
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Generous giving
Wednesday	Galatians 5:1-15	Christ gives freedom
Thursday	John 16:16-24	Sorrow will turn to joy
Friday	Jeremiah 31:10-14	The Lord offers hope
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Healing God, you who know our every need, bring us from hurt and sadness to joy and gladness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this food you make us strong. To you our life and love belong. Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus give you faith when you are afraid and peace when you are suffering. (Mark 5:34, 36)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come and Fill Our Hearts



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a sad or difficult time you have experienced.
- How is God with you—or feel absent from you—in the sad and difficult times?
- A life of faith does not always experience happy, joyous times. How does your faith keep you going as you wait for the sense of joy in God's presence?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 30.

This psalm expresses thanksgiving after a time of distress. It acknowledges that we experience difficult times in life, but those difficult times do not get the last word. Identify some of the challenges you have experienced in life. How has God's presence been felt or experienced through God's word or through other people? What kept you going? How have you changed or grown through the experience? How did it impact your life of faith in God? Sometimes when we live through dark times we can forget to give thanks to God. In Psalm 30 the psalmist feels compelled to express words of thanksgiving. Think of a difficult time in your life that you have endured and moved beyond. Offer words of thanksgiving to God as a way to praise God as the one who turns weeping into joy, the one who takes our mourning and turns it into dancing (vv. 5 and 11).

Pray: **Healing God, you who know our every need, bring us from hurt and sadness to joy and gladness. Amen.**

SERVICE



In Psalm 30, it has been observed that verse 5 is a good summary of the entire book of Psalms. Caring for others while they go through a difficult time is an important part of the Christian life. It is tempting to either deny the pain of others or to move too quickly beyond the pain to a premature sense of closure or happiness. Be aware of others around you who are experiencing difficult times. Be willing to be with them and hear their pain. Do so with the confidence that God promises healing and joy without forcing that feeling as a present experience. Give the other person courage and hope to endure a present crisis with faith in God's future.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lamentations is filled with the sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem and the people of God. Lamentations 3:22-33 offers the words of hope in God in the midst of crisis. Lamentations 3:26 states, "It is good that one should sit quietly for the salvation of the LORD." Centering prayer is a way for one to sit in silence and let God's love embrace the one waiting quietly. Take time to sit prayerfully without offering petitions or prayers of thanksgiving. Simply sit with a word to focus one's attention on God's loving presence. Use a word like "mercy," "love," or "Jesus" and sit quietly to be reminded of God's love for you.



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