

JULY 2, 2017  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God rewards those who help disciples.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Luke 9:46-48	Welcoming the little ones
Tuesday	Matthew 25:31-41	Receiving Christ in others
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-10	Abraham receives three visitors
Thursday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-16	Show hospitality to strangers
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will surely be rewarded.”

**Matthew 10:42 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord, open our hearts to welcome you each day, and open our hands to serve others in love.  
Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, thank you for blessing us with this food. As you serve and welcome us, help us to serve and welcome others. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with a giving, caring heart. May you experience the full joy of serving others.



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JULY 2, 2017  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*When the Poor Ones*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you needed help and someone was kind to you.
- In Matthew 10, Jesus is very candid about the sacrifice of being his disciple. It is not necessarily an easy life. How does God care for Jesus' followers, especially during difficult times?
- God asks us to show our thanks by being kind, helpful, and welcoming to others. What are some ways to do this?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: Matthew 10:42.*

Jesus said that anyone who gave one of his most humble followers a cup of cool water—just because that person was his follower—would be rewarded (Matthew 10:42). Even small acts of kindness to others do not escape God's attention! Put an empty water jug or pitcher on your table. During the week, discuss ways in which you have been able to help others. Each time someone shares, pour a cup of water into the jug. Conclude with this prayer:

**Lord Jesus, thank you for serving us. Please make us always ready to serve others, in big ways and in small ways. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus said that anyone who welcomes one of his followers welcomes him, and in turn welcomes God (Matthew 10:40). Extend a welcome to an individual or household from your congregation to join you for a meal in your home. Use portions of *Taking Faith Home* during your time together. Remember, that in serving your visitors, you are serving Christ himself!

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Romans 6 the Apostle Paul states that in baptism we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. Therefore, sin will not control or dominate our lives. One way not to let sin rule our lives is to confess our sins and, thereby, be freed from its power over us. Use Psalm 51:1-11 as a confession or use some other confessional, perhaps from the worship life of your church. Conclude with these words:

**“As a disciple of Christ, I thank you for the forgiveness of all my sins. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”**



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