

FEBRUARY 16, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



God's law is meant to protect life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Matthew 5:21-37 | Teachings of Jesus |
| Monday | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | Choose life, not death |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 | Working together for God |
| Wednesday | Galatians 5:13-6:2 | Fulfilling the law of Christ |
| Thursday | Deuteronomy 30:8-14 | The Lord will bring you back |
| Friday | Romans 3:19-26 | Justified by grace |
| Saturday | Psalms 119:1-8 | The law of the Lord |
| Sunday | Matthew 17:1-19 | Transfiguration of Jesus |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him.

Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who give life and protect life with your law, help us to care for others, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a gift of love that gives us life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with joy as you walk in the ways of God. (Psalm 119:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Arise, Your Light
Has Come!*



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:

- What is something that you really enjoy in life?
- How do others watching you know that you are enjoying life?
- How do you see God as part of the life you enjoy?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 5:21-37.

These words from Jesus can seem difficult to accept, even scary. Jesus is doing two basic things. He is presenting himself as an authorized interpreter of God's law ("but I say to you") and he is refuting a use of the law that allows people to abuse others. Jesus points out that not killing and not committing adultery carries with them the commitment to value another person's life beyond not killing or divorcing someone. God's law protects life, all life. That means people's reputations, relationships with others, and ability to live daily in peace is valued by God. God cares about all of life. Jesus' hyperbole about plucking out one's eye or cutting off one's hand is a tool of wisdom speech. It makes a point that the intent of God's law is so very important because God's gift of life is that important. And Jesus—like no other—is authorized to state this point in the face of scribes, Pharisees, and all the learned teachers of the law. How do you see God's law as a gift to protect you and your neighbor?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, you teach us that the greatest law is to love God and neighbor. Help us to live lives that love you and all people. Amen.**

SERVICE



God's law is meant to protect life, which is the theme this week throughout the Daily Bible Readings. The Christian response to Jesus' teachings is to love God and neighbor through actions and words. Think about and act upon what this means to you. Is there a congregation or organization near you that would benefit from a financial contribution or your volunteer time to provide a needed service for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The reading from 1 Corinthians 3 this week reminds us that "we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (v.9). Gather together a few toy building blocks or boxes. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Build a tower one block at a time. Each time you add a block, name ways we grow in our faith: e.g., worship, prayer, singing, or reading Scripture. After the tower is built, use these practices to grow in your faith this week.



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