

JUNE 18, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Sent out to do the work of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Exodus 19:2-8a	Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22–6:5	Bear one another's burdens
Thursday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-8	Service well-pleasing to God
Saturday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“As you [the twelve apostles] go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.” **Matthew 10:7-8a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you have promised to do great things through us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to do your will through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we are the sheep of your pasture; we thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 100)

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God be poured into your heart through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Savior, like a Shepherd
Lead Us*



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 do you do to help others, and what gets in the way of helping others?
- How is the care you offer to others doing the work of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 9:35–10:8.

Jesus asks his disciples (described here as “apostles,” that is, those sent) to go out and do what he does. They are to go out and announce the good news of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, to heal sick people, raise the dead, and cast out demons. This is also the work that Jesus did (Matthew 4:17, 23-24). Casting out demons meant freeing people from all powers that prevented them from living full lives as those created by God. What Jesus did, we will do. However, there is no mistaking our own brokenness. Peter will deny Jesus three times, Judas Iscariot will betray him, Matthew the tax collector collaborated with the Roman government, and Simon the Cananaean was a “zealot” who worked against the Romans. The fact is that this motley crew is not so different from the church of any age and yet capable of doing Jesus’ work by the power of the kingdom of heaven that has also come near to us.

Discuss: When have you been surprised by the healing power given to you to bless other lives?

Pray: **Healing God, give us courage to face the challenges of daily life with love and hope that reaches out to others with the kingdom that has come near to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to give them hope in their daily lives?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father’s Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. This day is set aside to honor fathers and provide an opportunity to celebrate fatherhood. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**



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