

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The grain of wheat that dies
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-4	God is your Savior
Tuesday	Isaiah 44:1-8	God will help his people
Wednesday	John 12:44-50	God gives eternal life
Thursday	John 17:1-5	This is eternal life
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Christ's love compels us
Saturday	Psalms 91	God will satisfy with long life
Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, the one you sent. **John 17:3 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, my Savior, please draw me close to you, today and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, be with us as we share this meal and with us always stay. Bless us with your love and grace, each and every day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you a new heart to believe in Jesus and to do what pleases him. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt upset or worried.
- Before Jesus' death, his heart was "troubled" (John 12:27). Could Jesus have chosen not to die? Why or why not?
- What does Jesus' gift of his life on the cross mean to you?

DEVOTIONS:

Read Psalm 51 as a home devotional litany. Consider dividing up the reading as follows:

Reader 1: verses 1-2; Reader 2: verses 3-5; Reader 3: verses 6-9; Reader 4: verses 10-12.

At the end of each section, invite all household members to respond together with these words: "God, create a pure heart in me."

SERVICE:

This week, begin to create Easter cards to send to friends, relatives, fellow church members and neighbors. Decorate your cards with Easter symbols (e.g. crosses, butterflies, lilies).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Lent is a time to reflect on the life of Jesus and our own lives as his followers. Lent begins in the wilderness and journeys toward the cross and the tomb. In preparing for Holy Week and Easter, help your children experience the solemnity and importance of this season by together creating a "wilderness box." Place these symbols into a shoebox or cardboard carton:

- **Sand:** to create the wilderness (Mark 1:12-13)
- **Twig Crosses:** as a reminder that Jesus said that any who would follow him must "take their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34-35)
- **Stones:** symbolizing the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments or the stones of the temple that Jesus said would be destroyed (John 2:19)
- **Fabric "Road" or "Path":** symbolizing the journey God's Old Testament people made through the desert, and our Lenten journey
- **Wheat:** the symbol Jesus uses to talk about how dying brings new life (John 12:24)
- **Palm or Fern Fronds:** add these on Palm Sunday
- **Closed Tomb:** add this on Good Friday (use play-dough or modeling clay for this)
- **Flowers:** open the "tomb" and insert these on Easter Sunday to symbolize the new life that comes to us because of Jesus' resurrection



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