

FEBRUARY 2, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Love is at the heart of the Christian faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	The Lord chooses Jeremiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Wednesday	Luke 2:25-32	Simeon praises the Lord
Thursday	1 John 3:16-21	God is love
Friday	Amos 5:14-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalms 71:1-6	A prayer for God's protection
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus, that others may see in us our love and faith in you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for the needs of all people; we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have enough to eat through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil



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 makes you feel loved?
- Can you be a person of Christian faith without love? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

This scripture reading responds to some misguided understandings about the Christian faith. Some think their knowledge and their understanding of God is better than others. Their faith is driven by the power of knowledge and a feeling of superiority. The Apostle Paul says that love is at the heart of the message and ministry of the followers of Jesus Christ. The love Paul lifts up *“does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth”* (v. 6). While some might boast of having spiritual powers that can move mountains or grasp deep mysteries, Paul states that love is the real measure of the Christian faith. Christian love lasts forever and shows compassion because it *“believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”* (v. 7). The love Paul preaches is not *“boastful or arrogant”* (v. 4b), but humbly seeks the good of others, recognizing that our knowledge, even our speaking on behalf of God is imperfect. Faith, hope, and love are all important, and because of our imperfect faith and hope, the greatest of the three is love.

Discuss: How has someone shown you God's love?

Pray: **Merciful God, thank you for loving us beyond anything we deserve. Guide us to love others as we have been loved through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show compassion and love to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On February 2nd each year the Christian church remembers Jesus' presentation at the temple forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-38). This festival is called *Candlemas*. It involves candlelight processions and the blessing and distribution of candles. Simeon's words referring to Jesus as *“a light to reveal God to the nations”* (v. 32) provide the biblical inspiration for this. The candles symbolize the purity of Christ. Light the candles that you will use in your home.

Say: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world. May the light of these candles remind us to shine for you so that others may see your love and grace through our actions and words. Amen.**



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