

FEBRUARY 16, 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus tells us we are blessed right now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Acts 13:26-39	Bring the good news
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalms 1	Blessed are the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.” Luke 6:21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless your people like a tree planted by water that bears fruit, even during dry seasons, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen. (Psalm 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food give strength to our bodies and your word of life feed our souls with peace and contentment. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and contentment.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Blessed Assurance



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:

- Do you feel blessed right now? Explain.
- For a follower of Jesus, what does it mean to be blessed?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 6:17-26.

It is understandable to say we are blessed when good things happen to us. However, Jesus reverses this thinking by addressing the poor, the hungry, those weeping, and those hated. In a reversal of fortunes, they will be the ones who receive riches, food, laughter, and joy. Because of this, Jesus calls them blessed right now. The reverse is true for those who seem to be enjoying life now. They are called cursed. Jesus presents a view of life with very different standards and rewards than most people expect. Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17 also offer this alternative view of life and prosperity. Trusting the teachings of God gives a blessed life, not human powers filled with bad intentions (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus and Jeremiah, the writer of Psalm 1, honor a life that trusts God's word above all else. This is the faith that blesses us with contentment, even joy. Hear and believe Jesus' words from Luke 6 that you, as a follower of Jesus, are blessed, no matter your circumstances.

Discuss: Is it easy or difficult for you to trust that you are blessed right now by Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, your future is filled with good things for those who trust you; give us hearts to trust that your future is filled with grace and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help those who are poor or hungry?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Blessing others is an ancient tradition, a way to speak of God's love and care. It often comes with a physical gesture. It is the act of a faith community that communicates God's word of peace and joy. Offer a blessing to another person, perhaps to a family member when they leave the house or go to bed, or to a friend when you depart from each other's company. When you do so, make the sign of the cross on that person's forehead or hand as a reminder of God's baptismal promise.

Say: **May God bless you with peace and joy.**



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