

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Showing love and mercy is a lifelong journey.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies
Monday	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Joseph reveals himself
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	The resurrection body
Wednesday	Genesis 43:16-34	Joseph is merciful and kind
Thursday	Psalms 25:6-10	A prayer for guidance
Friday	1 John 2:7-17	A new commandment
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **Luke 6:36-37 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food give us strength to overcome anger and anxiety with love and mercy, through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God show you mercy and forgiveness.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



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:

- If someone stole from you, what do you think should happen to them?
- What is difficult about showing mercy to those who hurt you? What are the benefits of showing kindness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 6:27-38.

Even Jesus understands that his words to “*love your enemies; do good to those who hate you*” (v.27) sound challenging and are very hard to do. People don’t want to hear about kindness to those who don’t deserve it. No one wants to be abused or walked on. How do we experience the blessings of showing mercy, forgiveness, and love for our enemies? We are not going to learn it from a desire for power and dominance. Power can too easily lead to abuse of power. There are too many wars, bullies at school, and violence on the streets and in the news. It will take a lifetime for the disciples of Jesus to learn the importance—even power—of mercy from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That is why Jesus’ sermon in this reading is a call to a lifetime of work. We will have to listen and try to believe it and yet fail many times along the way.

Discuss: When have you seen mercy and forgiveness work for good?

Pray: **Almighty God, be our comfort and strength as we learn what it means to show mercy, forgiveness, and love for enemies. In Christ Jesus we pray, 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 show forgiveness to someone who hurt you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 encourages us to trust the Lord when we are mistreated. Feeling mistreated by others can make us feel hurt and our relationship with them changes. Write a list of people who you have hurt or have hurt you in the past. Say the Lord’s Prayer. Pause for a moment of silence after “*forgive us our trespasses [sins or debts] as we forgive those who trespass against us.*” Then read the names you have written before finishing the prayer.



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