

MAY 26, 2019
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus gives peace that is like no other.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the Counselor
Monday	Acts 16:9-15	Paul travels to Macedonia
Tuesday	Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5	River of life
Wednesday	Numbers 6:22-27	Blessing for the people
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	Hebrews 12:14-17	Live in peace
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. **John 14:27 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, lead us away from the contentment that the world wants to offer to the true source of peace and love, which is faith in you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, on us to rest, our table to grace, and our food to bless. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to us, and bless us and make the Lord's face to shine on us. (Psalm 67:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I've Got Peace
Like a River*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that is stressful for you?
- Where is a place you experience peace?
- As discussed in John 14:27, how is the worldly peace of personal safety, wealth, and privilege a false peace?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 14:23-29.

This text links Jesus, his Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit with love and peace, a peace that is unique to the world. The Roman Empire promoted the Roman peace, but it was based on abusive power, fear, and control. In Acts 16:9-15 Lydia and the other women were in prayer by the river outside of the imperial city of Philippi, probably because it was not safe to trust the Roman peace in town, especially for those who worshiped God. Some political leaders and movements thrive on fear and division to keep power and loyalty. Not so with Jesus whose kingdom casts out fear. It is hard to love others if you fear them. Living in a world that promotes fear, it is not enough to remember Jesus' words from the past. Jesus promises to give us the Holy Spirit, to bring us Jesus' very life and message, a power that moves followers from anxiety of threats to peace and from fear to love. It is no wonder that the resurrected Jesus says, "Peace be with you," to his disciples and leads us to offer the same peace to others. Think of some things that stress you in daily life. Respond to those fears and anxieties by praying the prayer below:

Pray: Come Holy Spirit, give me the peace that Jesus gives. Turn my troubled heart and my fears into faith and trust in you, my loving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SERVICE

In response to God opening her heart to faith in Jesus, Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15). Recognizing this milestone moment in her life, she invited Paul and others to stay in her home. Significant milestones in our lives are important. Marking faith milestones nurtures peace and love as we travel on our faith journeys. This week take time to recognize a faith milestone in your life, or one of a family member, or friend. Invite them to your home or send them a card to remember this occasion.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Numbers 6:24-26 is a traditional benediction many recognize, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." Psalm 67 is very similar. A benediction is a prayer offering God's help and protection. It means "good word" and is also called a blessing. This week practice a ritual blessing every night before closing your eyes: **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us** (Psalm 67:1).



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