

MAY 5, 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Disciples lovingly accept the hospitality of others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
Wednesday	Romans 12:14-21	Marks of the true Christian
Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Leviticus 19:32-37	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So he [Peter] ordered them [Cornelius and his household] to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.
Acts 10:48 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, being a guest in another person's home is not always easy to do. Give us love and courage to graciously accept the hospitality of others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you are the host at every meal. Help me to receive your hospitality and to be open to the hospitality of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's steadfast love and faithfulness give you joy. (Psalm 98:3-4)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Give Thanks for Saints



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:

- Tell or think about a memorable time when you have been a guest in someone else's home.
- In what ways do you show God's love when visiting others in their home?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 10:44-48.

While Peter is speaking, he witnesses the work of the Holy Spirit that leads him to baptize Cornelius and his household. Then Peter accepts the hospitality of Cornelius, a Roman soldier (Acts 10:1-2). What would it have been like for Peter to receive food and lodging in the home of a Roman and a Gentile? It was most likely a dramatic change for Peter. It is one thing to be the host and invite someone to receive the hospitality, food, family and faith traditions of your own culture. It is quite another to be open to the cultural life of someone else. It can easily be disorienting. Will you like the food? Will you know or make adjustments to the appropriate manners expected? Will you pick up the right utensil? Will you embarrass your host or yourself? Being a guest is not easy and requires attentiveness, acceptance, and grace. That is what the church is asked to do, to be vulnerable and not in control. That is what Jesus and the Holy Spirit expect of us, too.

Discuss: How does your openness to someone else's hospitality show the love of God to that person?

Pray: **Gracious God, your kindness knows no end. Give us faith to be open to the lives and ways of others that together we may give praise to you through Christ Jesus 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 be open to the hospitality and cultural traditions of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Throughout the Bible and the history of the church, singing has been a faithful way of worshiping God and expressing one's faith in God (Psalm 98). Sing or read the words of a favorite hymn. Begin your singing and reading by praying the words of Psalm 98:4: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Amen.**



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