

MAY 12, 2024  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Jesus prays for our protection in the world.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                         |                                   |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 17:6-19            | Christ's prayer for his disciples |
| Monday    | Acts 1:15-17, 21-26     | Mathias replaces Judas            |
| Tuesday   | 1 John 5:9-13           | Knowing about eternal life        |
| Wednesday | 2 Samuel 22:1-4         | David's song of thanksgiving      |
| Thursday  | Psalms 40:1-10          | Thanksgiving for deliverance      |
| Friday    | 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5   | Requests for prayer               |
| Saturday  | Psalms 1                | The way of happiness              |
| Sunday    | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 | Work of the Holy Spirit           |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"And now I [Jesus] am no longer in the world, but they [disciples] are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."*

John 17:11 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord Jesus, for your wisdom, healing power, saving work, and prayers for our protection and care for our life together, we give you thanks. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal that gives us strength and for your life-giving word filled with wisdom, light, and love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and protect you from all harm.



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MAY 12, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Blest Be the Tie That  
Binds*



### 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 time you got hurt and who helped you.
- How can our faith help us when we get hurt?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: John 17:6-19.

Jesus acknowledges that his followers will remain in the world even while he is no longer physically present. This passage reflects the adage that Christians are to be in the world but not of the world. John 3:16 is an anchor for the Gospel of John's approach to the world. God loves the world. What is the world? It represents all that resists and rejects the revelation of God through Jesus. What a contrast! We, as Jesus' followers are to love and pray for those people who oppose God and God's rule of the world through Jesus. This is truly a daunting challenge. It is so great that Jesus must pray for our protection from "the evil one" (v. 15), the power that opposes everything God stands for. Jesus' prayer includes the desire for our unity so that we may be one in Christ. Living in a world opposed to the light, to truth, and to faith in Christ, we are cautioned not to let that which opposes love and faith divide us.

Discuss: What do you see happening around you that you think may divide Jesus' followers through the powers of this world?

Pray: **Compassionate God, we thank you for your protection and guidance for our lives; help us to be your light and truth in a world that does not know you and 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 protect someone from harm?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today in the United States, it is Mother's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all women who have cared for you. In the church, motherhood represents the important role of caring for and nurturing others in the journey of faith. Take time to give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. Consider reaching out to them with a call, note, or email.

Pray for them: **Dear God, I thank you for the gift and life of [name/s] who has shown me love and faith in your name. May she be blessed with joy and peace in knowing you through the love of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**



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