

MARCH 22, 2015
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking+ faith home

Lent is a time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice for us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The grain of wheat that dies
Monday	Romans 5:6-11	Christ died for us
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Many made righteous
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:14-19	He died for all
Thursday	Hebrews 2:9-15	Bringing many to glory
Friday	Hebrews 9:24-28	He takes away the sins of many
Saturday	Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12	He bore the sins of many
Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat. John 12:24 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

God, create a pure heart in me. Give me a new and faithful spirit. (Psalm 51:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come give to us, O Saving One, the bread of life to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus draw you to himself. May his death cover your sins, and his resurrection fill you with new life. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Recall a sacrifice you have made for someone else. Is there something that another person has sacrificed for you?
- Jesus compared himself to a grain of wheat that would die so as to "produce lots of wheat" (John 12:24). What has the sacrificial death of Jesus produced?
- How is your life different because of the death of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read Psalm 51 as a home devotional litany. Consider dividing up the reading as follows: Reader 1: verses 1-2; Reader 2: verses 3-5; Reader 3: verses 6-9; Reader 4: verses 10-12. At the end of each section, invite all household members to respond together with these words: **God, create a pure heart in me.**

SERVICE

Purchase flower seeds and fill clay pots with potting soil. Plant the seeds and water the soil. Plan to give the pots away as Easter gifts to friends or neighbors as a sign of the new life that has come through the death and resurrection of Jesus. You may wish to decorate the pots with Easter symbols - glue these onto the outside of the pots and paint over them with varnish.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week, light five purple candles on your "crown of thorns" wreath. Read John 12:24. Then say this prayer together:

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving your life like a seed that dies so that new life could come to many. This Lent, help us to grow as wheat in your field. Amen.



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