

JUNE 11, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus calls us to follow him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus
Monday	Hosea 5:15–6:6	A call to repentance
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise realized by faith
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:28-33	Moses, the mediator of God's will
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Ephesians 5:1-20	Let love be your guide
Saturday	Psalms 50:7-15	What pleases God
Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us faith and courage to follow you and to touch the lives of those around us with your grace, mercy, and healing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the one who gives us hope now and always. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to trust in the one who blesses us with grace. (Romans 4:16)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Here I Am, Lord



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:

- When is a time you have been a leader? a follower?
- Jesus calls us to follow. What has this meant to you in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.

It is interesting that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus never scolds people identified as "sinners and tax collectors." His harsh words and judgments are made against those who think they know God yet don't understand that God desires mercy, not the prideful acts of religious people. Jesus shows his mercy to Matthew, the tax collector, to a grieving father, and to a sick woman. Jesus calls Matthew and others to follow him, yet in these stories Jesus is the one who ends up following others, one into a home for dinner and another into a home to bring back life from death. Jesus heals a woman who did not ask for his help but simply touched his robe for healing. He is willing to follow the woman's desperate need and calls it faith. Jesus is willing and available to the needs of others. Jesus' ministry finds itself in the midst of life and death issues where "playing it by the book" is not the guide, but rather where mercy, kindness, healing, and hope are required in a world filled with chaos, confusion, and despair.

Discuss: Where might Jesus be calling you to follow in his name and go to a place you didn't plan to go?

Pray: **Merciful God, give us faith to follow you each day and to trust in your care for us and for all that you create through Christ Jesus, the Great Healer. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you follow Jesus and be available to care for someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace. Some have a cross or a fish symbol tattoo somewhere in a visible place on their body. Think or talk about a time you or someone you know was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Then write a list of ways you can show you are a follower. Is there something like a cross or biblical scene placed in a visible location in your home? Is it something you wear? Is it something through your actions or words?

Pray: **Dear Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow. May we do so with love and mercy toward others in our daily lives. Amen.**



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