

APRIL 15, 2018
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



The risen Jesus sends us out to witness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	Acts 1:1-11	You will be my witnesses
Thursday	Acts 10:34-43	The witness of the apostles
Friday	Isaiah 35:3-9	God changes everything
Saturday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” **Luke 24:46-48 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, open our minds to understand the Scriptures and our mouths to speak of you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless our food, God guide our ways, God give us strength to declare your praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. (Psalm 4:1,6)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Thine Is the Glory



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about an amazing event you saw or heard about.
- Who first told you about Jesus? Who and what has helped you learn about him?
- Jesus said that his disciples would be “witnesses” for him (Luke 24:48). In what ways are you a witness for Jesus to others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 24:36b-48.

When his followers saw the risen Lord, they were filled with joy but also disbelief and still questioned how this could be (v. 41). Jesus called these joyful and questioning followers to be his witnesses and to tell others of the power of repentance and forgiveness in Jesus’ name (v. 47). Even those who are followers need support and encouragement in their faith in the risen Lord Jesus. Talk with others about how the resurrection of Jesus creates a new way of life for us, one that is renewed daily through God’s forgiveness. In your prayers this week, pray for others that they may come to know the risen Jesus or that their faith may be strengthened to deal with disbelief and questions of faith.

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer.

SERVICE



The Great Commandment to love God and to love your neighbor relates directly to the Great Commission to tell the good news of Jesus to others. Being a witness of Jesus’ saving work is an essential act of love of the body of Christ, the church. Be open to how the Holy Spirit can use you as a witness to others. This week pray for opportunities to be a witness to Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalm 4:8 states, “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.” The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God’s place at the center of our lives. Rituals that help us do this can have a powerful “witnessing” influence in our home lives. Consider incorporating these ideas into your bedtime routine: Read a Bible passage or a storybook Bible. Give a blessing to someone. Take time for prayer and meditation, including sitting in silence. Sing or pray a hymn. Review the day to wonder how God was present in your up and down moments.



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