

**JULY 5, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



Jesus gives rest to the weary.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Coming ruler of God's people
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Genesis 24:34-67	Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca
Thursday	Psalm 45:10-17	A royal wedding
Friday	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Springtime love rhapsody
Saturday	Psalm 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for giving us rest when we are weary and the invitation to lean on you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this gift of food that strengthens our bodies and your presence in our lives that gives rest for our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with grace, mercy, and steadfast love. (Psalm 145:8)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus is a Rock
in a Weary Land*



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 you are weary and tired, where do you find rest?
- What is something that weighs you down and can feel like a burden?
- Think of or tell about a time you felt Jesus lifted burdens off your shoulders.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

In this text Jesus speaks with two very different emotional tones. Jesus' naming "this generation" is naming us, we as a people bent on rejecting God, preserving alienation from God, and pursuing idols of any sort. We as a people pursuing our own glory will never be satisfied with God. We reject the austerity of John the Baptist and the life of abundant pleasure of Jesus (vv. 18-19). God's message offered music that we refuse to dance to and grief for which we refuse to express sadness (v. 17). But the tone changes dramatically at verse 25. God reveals Jesus to infants, to the weary, and to those carrying heavy burdens (11:28). In the moment of need and awareness of our great need, we are open to Jesus giving us rest, taking our burdens, and giving us an easy yoke to guide us. The Gospel of Matthew is filled with judgment for those who are content in their own judgments and merciful to those wanting and needing something they cannot give themselves: the peace and joy of the reign of God. Jesus speaks with words of judgment and of comfort. Why do you think we need to hear both?

Pray: **Merciful God, cleanse us of our self-assurance that is blind to you, and help us to hear your invitation to find rest for our souls through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Going through hard times alone makes us feel weighed down and exhausted. Jesus cares for our hurts and grief through the hands and voices of others. Take time to reach out to someone with the love of Jesus by praying with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalm 145 is a song of praise to God. Read verse 8 aloud several times, "**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**" After each time, pause for a moment of silence. Think or tell about a time when God's steadfast love was a comfort to you. Read the verse one more time and close with, "**Amen.**"



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