

JULY 9, 2023  
SIXTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God rescues sinners.*

### 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	The coming ruler
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Luke 12:22-31	God knows your needs
Thursday	Psalms 34:1-10	Honor the Lord
Friday	Judges 10:10-16	Israel is unfaithful again
Saturday	Psalms 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 your care that rescues us when we are weary and carry heavy burdens. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your humble heart that gives rest for our souls and strengthens us with this gift of food. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you trust in the care of Jesus Christ that rescues you from all your burdens.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I Heard the Voice of  
Jesus Say*



### 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 or someone you know did something you knew was wrong?
- When you feel you are carrying a heavy burden, where or who do you turn to for help?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 7:15-25a.

Paul has a deep understanding of our brokenness. We are not what we want to be. Although we know what is the right thing to do, we do not do it, at least not consistently. Paul calls this inconsistency sin. We like to think we are in control of our thoughts and actions. However, Paul experiences the power of sin within him that does not submit to God's goodness. He states clearly, *“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do”* (v. 19). He calls this way of life *“wretched”* (v. 24). It seems there is no hope for us, but that is exactly why we need Jesus. Only sinners can be saved or *“rescued”* (v. 24). In the language of Jesus in Matthew 11:28, we are *“weary and are carrying heavy burdens.”* In our brokenness, Jesus brings healing, rescues us from the power of sin, and gives us rest and peace. The response of faith is: *“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 7:25a).

*Discuss:* When have you faced brokenness and become aware of God's forgiveness that heals your heavy burdens?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, we thank you that your mercy endures forever, and your power over sin and death rules in our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others when they are tired and weary?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A yoke is a wooden piece that joins two animals together, usually oxen, to help pull a plow. The work becomes easier with two pulling. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus says, *“take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.”* There are days when we feel like we are carrying heavy burdens without support from someone else. Jesus reminds us that we are not alone. Think or talk about what it means to be connected with one another through Jesus and how it helps us to *“bear one another's burdens.”*

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus, help us to share your love with one another and be yoked to you so that our burdens are lifted. 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)