

PSALM: Psalm 32

The psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse. The assembly will sing verses in bold print.

- ¹Happy are they whose transgressions ¹are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹put away!
- ²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- ¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹is no guile!**
- ³While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ered away,
because of my groaning ¹all day long.
- ⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me ¹day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹heat of summer.**
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then
you forgave me the guilt ¹of my sin.
- ⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹time of
trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ¹shall not reach
them.**
- ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹of deliverance.
- ⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹you should go;
I will guide you ¹with my eye.**
- ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹not stay
near you."
- ¹⁰**Great are the tribulations ¹of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹in the LORD.**
- ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹true of heart.

A READING: Galatians 2:15–21

A reading from Galatians.

- ¹⁵We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.
- ¹⁷But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰and it is

no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

GOSPEL: Luke 7:36—8:3

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him — that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 7:36 - 8:3	A woman anoints Jesus' feet
Monday	2 Chronicles 30:1-12	The people ask for forgiveness
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 30:13-27	The people are forgiven
Wednesday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Thursday	John 8:1-11	Jesus forgives a woman
Friday	Luke 5:17-26	Jesus forgives sins and heals
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer for mercy
Sunday	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus casts out demons

Scripture Verse for the Week:

I was put to death on the cross with Christ, and I do not live anymore—it is Christ who lives in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself to save me.
 – Galatians 2:20 (NCV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord, you have shown me great forgiveness. Help me to show great love. Amen. (Luke 7:47)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me and giving yourself for me. Please live in me today. Amen. (Galatians 2:20)

A Blessing to Share:

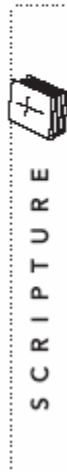
*May God hear your prayers and protect you.
 May he give you joy and gladness. Amen.* (Psalm 5:1-3,11-12)

Mealtime Refrain:

We live by faith in the Son of God:
He loved us and gave himself for us. (Galatians 2:20)

Mealtime Prayer:

God so gracious, God so great, we thank you God for cup and plate. Amen.



Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Remember a time when someone forgave you. How did you feel?
- Is it sometimes hard to forgive others? Why?
- What does God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus mean to you?
- Jesus said a person who has been forgiven much loves much. How does God's forgiveness affect your relationships with others?

Devotional Practices:

When you gather for your home devotion times this week, invite each household member to write down on one side of a piece of paper a sin they would like to confess to God. Then read Psalm 32:5 and have each person draw a cross on the other side of the paper to indicate that their sins have been "covered" by the death of Jesus. Set the pieces of paper aside. At the end of the week have a symbolic burning or shredding of your confession slips, thanking God for his amazing grace.

Service:

Ask each household member to name a person outside of the home who has shown them love. Make cards of encouragement and thanks to send to them.

Rituals and Traditions:

Jesus said that the woman who anointed his feet "loved much" because she had been forgiven much (Luke 7:47). In response to God's forgiveness, declare it to be "LOVE MUCH" week in your home. Brainstorm a list of ways you can show love to one another. Write these on a poster to display. As the week goes by, talk about your progress. Encourage one another in using "love much" word and actions.

Parent Toolbox - Forgiveness in Family Relationships

While households have great potential to be communities of deep love and care they are also prone to shared hurt and conflict. In homes people sin, and are sinned against. For relationships to stay healthy, the practice of genuine forgiveness is essential. Asking for and offering forgiveness are sacred habits. You may find these 5 steps helpful in your home:

1. Set aside time to discuss the issue – best when emotions have cooled.
2. Identify the problem or harmful event. Distinguish problem from person.
3. Explore the pains and concerns on both sides. Encourage listening.
4. Invite the offender/s to ask for forgiveness, and the offended to forgive.
5. Talk about how to avoid the problem/issue recurring. Resolve to change and pray for God's help to do so.