

# Today's Readings

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

- I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"  
to a nation that did not call on my name.
- <sup>2</sup>I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;
- <sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;
- <sup>4</sup>who sit inside tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
- <sup>5</sup>who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.
- <sup>6</sup>See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps
- <sup>7</sup>their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,  
says the LORD;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.
- <sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, "Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,"  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.
- <sup>9</sup>I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.

## PSALM: Psalm 22:19-28

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

- <sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.
- <sup>20</sup>**Deliver me from the sword,**  
**my life from the power of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>I will declare your name to my people;

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;

but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

## SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23–29

A reading from Galatians.

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

## GOSPEL: Luke 8:26–39

<sup>26</sup>Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — <sup>29</sup>for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

<sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup>Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup>When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

**Faith Talk:**

- What is your favorite item of clothing? Why?
- St. Paul says that when we were baptized we were "clothed with Christ". What do you think this means?
- How do you "wear" Christ in daily life?

**Devotional Practices:**

Jesus told the man who had been rid of many demons to "return home and tell how much God has done for you" (Luke 8:39). In your home devotion times this week, build a list of the many different ways that you see God at work providing for you. Use this as the basis for your prayers of thanks throughout the week.

**Service:**

Spend some time preparing cards or simple gifts for your household to give to those who will be baptized in your congregation this coming year.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

June 20th is FATHERS DAY in the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. If there is a father and/or grandfather in your home, celebrate Father's Day by praying for and blessing them. Take time to share the things you appreciate about them or memories of their contributions to your life as household. Then say this prayer together:

*Father in Heaven: Thank you for the father in our home. Thank you for all the ways he loves and cares for us in your name. Please bless him with strength, health and wisdom to be the best father he can be. Help us to honor and respect him. Amen.*

To conclude have each household member place their hand on the father's shoulder or head and give them this "finish the sentence" blessing: "May God bless you with ..."

**Parent Toolbox: God's Guidance for Fathers**

The Bible indicates various behaviors, qualities and attitudes that are part of God's design for father-child relationships.

- A father is to love and forgive his children over and over again (Lk. 15:20).
- A father is to comfort and encourage his children (1 Th. 2:12).
- A father is to urge his children to "live lives worthy of the Lord" (1 Th. 2:12).
- A father is to provide for his children with their futures in mind (2 Cor. 12:14).
- A father is to "impress" his children with his own life of faith (Deut 4:9; 6:6-9).
- A father is not to be overly-demanding on his children, so that they do not become discouraged or bitter towards him (Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4).
- A father is to counsel his children in their values and behaviors (1 Ki. 1:6).

## 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 8:26-39	Jesus casts out demons
Monday	Matthew 8:28-34	Two men with demons are healed
Tuesday	Matthew 17:14-21	Healing of a boy with a demon
Wednesday	Mark 7:24-30	A little girl is rid of a demon
Thursday	Luke 4:31-37	A possessed man in the synagogue
Friday	Luke 11:14-20	Jesus drives out a mute demon
Saturday	Psalm 54	God is my help
Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus

### Scripture Verses for the Week:

All of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes. There is no Jew or Greek. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female.

Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are all one.

– Galatians 3:27-28 (NIRV)

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

### Prayer for this Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for setting me free. Help me to tell others how much you have done for me. Amen. (Luke 8:26-39)

### For Throughout the Day:

Lord, please stay close to me. You are my strength, come quickly to help me. Amen. (Psalm 22:19)

### A Blessing to Share:

*Baptized child of God, Jesus has set you free. May he keep you close to him and at one with others. Amen. (Gal. 3:26-28)*

### Mealtime Refrain:

Through faith in Jesus we are children of God:

**We are one people in Christ.** (Galatians 3:26-28)

### Mealtime Prayer:

*Lord, thank you for the gifts before us, signs of your love and mercy. Help us to tell others how much you have done for us. Amen.*

