

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

A reading from Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1–9

Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses. Assembly sings refrain at R.



Re - mem - ber, O LORD, your com - pas - sion and love.

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. **R**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

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⁹You lead the low-ly in justice
and teach the low-ly your way. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1–13

A reading from Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23–32

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



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

Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Mark 1:21-28	A teacher with authority
Tuesday	Matthew 9:1-8	The authority of the Son of Man
Wednesday	Matthew 28:18-20	The authority of Jesus
Thursday	John 15:9-17	Obedying the commands of Christ
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Love and serve like Christ
Saturday	Psalms 86:1-13	A prayer to do God's will
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Think the same way that Christ Jesus thought.

Philippians 2:3,5 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, show us your ways today. Teach us your paths. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, once again we are well fed; thank you for our daily bread. Help us not to moan or grumble; give us hearts both kind and humble. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God set you free from sin and make you new in heart and in spirit. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to be humble?
- Who has been an example of humility to you?
- In what ways did Jesus show humility? How can we follow his example?

DEVOTIONS:

Ezekiel 18:31 says *"get rid of all the sins you have done, and get for yourselves a new heart and a new way of thinking."* As part of your home devotion times this week, brainstorm ways in which Christians show they have "new hearts" and "new ways of thinking." Say a prayer asking God to forgive your sins and change your hearts. Finish your time together by baking or sharing heart-shaped candy or cookies.

SERVICE:

Make this "Humility Week" in your household. Ask each person to secretly decide on one act of service they can perform that will show concern for the interests of others. At the end of the week, talk about your acts of "secret service" and what it felt like to serve and be served.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

St. Paul writes: *"Does your life in Christ give you strength? Does his love comfort you? Do we share together in the Spirit? Do you have mercy and kindness? If so, make me very happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and having one mind and purpose"* (Philippians 2:1-2). Talk together about what you see to be the purpose of your household. Work on an agreed statement (e.g. "The purpose of our household is ..." with three to five points underneath). Type up your household purpose statement and place it in a prominent place in your home. Agree to revisit and revise it at a later stage.