

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM: Psalm 46

(A setting of the Psalm will be sung as the offering is received later in the service.)

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19–28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31–36

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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.

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| Sunday | Matthew 23:1-12 | Humble yourselves |
| Monday | Ephesians 2:1-9 | Saved by grace through faith |
| Tuesday | 1 Kings 21:1-28 | King Ahab humbles himself |
| Wednesday | 2 Chronicles 34:14-28 | King Josiah humbles himself |
| Thursday | Luke 14:7-14 | The humble will be exalted |
| Friday | 1 Peter 5:1-6 | God gives grace to the humble |
| Saturday | Luke 1:46-55 | Mary's song |
| Sunday | Matthew 25:1-13 | Parable of the wise and foolish girls |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored.

Matthew 23:11-12 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, send out your light and your truth. Let them lead us today. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, by your grace we eat and drink, by your grace we live. May we say thanks to you this day by how we serve and give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Jesus has chosen you to be part of his kingdom. May his love be at work in you, so that your life pleases him. Amen.



CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Who is the most important person you have ever met? What made (or makes) them important?
- What makes people "great" according to Jesus (read Matthew 23:12)?
- Jesus put all his followers on the same level (see Matthew 23:8). What difference should this make to how we see and treat one another?

DEVOTIONS:

October 31 (Monday this week) is Reformation Day. The central message of the sixteenth century reformers like Martin Luther was that we are saved through faith in Jesus, not by our own works or efforts. In your household devotional times this week, light a red candle (red is the church color for Reformation) and say together these words:

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift." (Ephesians 2:8).

If possible, read a short story of the life of Martin Luther or another Reformation figure, or watch the movie *Luther*.

SERVICE:

Jesus said, *"Whoever is your servant is the greatest among you."* Let your home chores become acts of service to one another this week. Have each household member choose one daily chore they will commit to this week to serve other household members in Jesus' name.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Psalm 43:3 says *"Send me your light and truth to guide me."* For a fun household activity this week, go on a night walk by candlelight. If it is windy, you may need to place your candles in clear containers to shield them from the breeze. If one person's flame is extinguished, another person should help them relight their candle. Talk about what comparisons you see with your journeys of faith.