

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Love for all the saints.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Psalms 82:1-5	A plea for justice
Thursday	John 15:12-17	Jesus the true vine
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.
Philemon 1:4-5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to treat all people with respect and honor that together we may bring healing to the church and to society, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks for this, our food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and give you peace and courage.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Behold, What Manner of Love

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:

- What words would you use to describe your family?
- Who do you consider to be your brother/sister in Christ and why?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philemon 1:1-21.

This letter truly focuses on the power of the law of love. Paul gives us the founding principle to free the lives of others. Onesimus was a runaway slave who was imprisoned with Paul. Philemon was his master. Philemon had the legal right to have Onesimus killed as his runaway slave. However, Paul is requesting Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother, just as Paul has treated Onesimus as a son. He uses language of being part of the same family. Paul wants a brother in Christ to treat a slave not as property but as a saint, that is, a fellow believer in Christ. Paul could have demanded this of Philemon, but the law of love makes Paul's approach one of free consent, not domination. With Philemon free to make the call, Onesimus can be freed to be a brother, a fellow heir with Paul and Philemon. Through the gospel of Christ, the law of love heals broken relationships in church and society.

Discuss: How can caring for one another in the body of Christ bring freedom and fairness to all people?

Pray: **Loving God, free us to care for others as you care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show God's law of love to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). This isn't easy. It means that we sometimes have to do things that are hard or that we don't want to do. Think or talk about what this means for you. Make a small cross out of pipe cleaners or wire and carry it in your pocket this week as a reminder of Jesus' words. *Pray:* **Lord Jesus Christ, free me of all that keeps me from following you. Amen.**

