

MAY 16, 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Eavesdropping can nurture the Christian faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | John 17:6-19 | Christ's prayer for his disciples |
| Monday | Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 | Mathias replaces Judas |
| Tuesday | 1 John 5:9-13 | Knowing about eternal life |
| Wednesday | Acts 16:16-34 | Paul and Silas in prison |
| Thursday | 1 Chronicles 16:8-18 | David's psalm of praise |
| Friday | Colossians 4:2-6 | Never give up praying |
| Saturday | Psalms 1 | The way of happiness |
| Sunday | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 | Work of the Holy Spirit |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." John 17:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Protecting God, you know the challenges in our daily lives; give us courage to love others and to trust you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we use this food to strengthen our bodies to serve others through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and keep you safe through Christ our Lord.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Guide My Feet



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:

- Tell or think about a moment when you overheard a conversation not intended for you.
- Have you ever overheard someone pray? If so, what was that like for you?
- Jesus' disciples overheard him praying. How do you think that influenced their faith?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 17:6-19.

Jesus is praying for believers, present and future. The context of this prayer is helpful: the disciples overhear everything Jesus says. It is fascinating how often Christians can think back and recall moments when they overheard parents, grandparents, other family members, friends, or even strangers express their faith in ways that strengthened the eavesdropping individual. A grandparent praying or someone simply talking candidly about their faith in Christ in a way that was not trying to force on the eavesdropper a particular conviction can strengthen one's faith. Jesus' disciples overheard Jesus and recorded his words, his prayer, for the church. This recorded prayer acknowledged that Jesus is one with God the Father and that Jesus' disciples will be protected by God and cared for by one another. That is a candid message worthy of overhearing. When have you overheard someone say something that encouraged your faith in Christ? When might someone overhear you and be strengthened for a life of faith?

Pray: **Loving God, strengthen us in our faith and guide us to walk in love with brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Psalms 1 makes it clear that who you gather with or who your friends are impacts your own journey in life. Being with people who are kind helps us to follow their example. Think about someone you know who is kind and in what ways they show kindness. How can you show kindness and compassion this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus knew he was going to die soon so he prayed aloud for himself and his friends. One of the benefits of you praying aloud is that others get to hear or "overhear" your words. "Faith is caught more than it is taught" is a principle of faith formation. Make it a practice this week to pray aloud for your friends and family, even when you are alone—or think you are alone. Say prayers for what is special about your friends and ask God to protect and bless them.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org