

FEBRUARY 17, 2019
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



To be blessed is to have joy and contentment.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Acts 13:26-34	Bring the good news
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Sermon on the Mount
Saturday	Psalms 1	Blessed are the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is in the LORD.
Jeremiah 17:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless your people like a tree planted by water that bears fruit, even during dry seasons. Amen. (Psalm 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8)

Mealtime Prayer:

As we eat this meal, may your word feed the soul and give joy and contentment to the heart. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with contentment, with joy, and with laughter through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Luke 6:20-22)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Blessed Are They



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you felt very fortunate, very happy.
- Talk or think about a time you felt as though things were going badly for you.
- In the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-26), Jesus describes those who are experiencing difficulties as people who are blessed. How can this be?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 6:17-26.

We can hear ourselves and others describe our lives as blessed when something good happens to us. However, Jesus reverses this thinking in what is called the Sermon on the Plain. The poor, the hungry, those weeping, those hated because of the Son of Man will, in the future, receive riches, food, laughter, and joy. So confident is Jesus of this future that he calls them blessed now. The reverse is true for those who receive fortunes now. They are called cursed. Jesus presents a view of life with very different standards and rewards than most people value today. Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17 do so as well. To trust the wisdom, the teachings of God, gives the blessed life, not human powers filled with deviousness (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus, the psalmist, and Jeremiah honor a life that trusts God's word above all things. This gives a life more to be treasured than what one sees and experiences now. This is faith that blesses us with joy and contentment. Recall difficult times you have had or are now experiencing. Hear and believe Jesus' words read in this passage from Luke 6 that you, as a follower of Jesus, are blessed, no matter your circumstances.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



In Luke 6, Jesus lifts up the poor, the hungry, and the grieving for a reason. These are the ones for whom the Bible shows God's preferential care. Be on the lookout for how you can show God's care for the poor, the hungry, and the grieving this week—and always. What can you do this week to care for those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Blessing others is an ancient tradition, a way to speak of God's love and care for others. It often comes with a physical gesture. It is the act of a faith community that communicates God's word of peace and joy. That community can be a parent with a child or a pastor with a congregation. This week offer a blessing to another person, perhaps to a family member when they leave the house or go to bed, or to a friend when you depart from each other's company. When you do so, make the sign of the cross on that person's forehead as a reminder of God's baptismal promise.



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