

MAY 19, 2019  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*The church expands to include Gentiles.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 13:31-35</b>	<b>Love one another</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 11:1-18</b>	<b>Peter reports to the church</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Revelation 21:1-6</b>	<b>New heaven and earth</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Acts 4:1-4</b>	<b>Peter and John growing the church</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:1-16</b>	<b>Unity in the body of Christ</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 6:1-7</b>	<b>Seven leaders for the church</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 148</b>	<b>Praise for God's universal glory</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 14:23-29</b>	<b>The sending of the Counselor</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When [the apostles and the believers] heard [the testimony of Peter], they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

**Acts 11:18 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, you who are the Alpha and the Omega, open our eyes and our hearts to those around us that all may know Easter joy. Amen.

#### **Mealtimes Prayer:**

Lord, we ask that you bless our food this day. As we use our spoon, our fork, and our knife, let us remember the repentance that leads to life. Amen. (Acts 11:18))

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

As Jesus has loved you, may you go out to love one another. (John 13:34)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Listen, God Is Calling*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does the word outreach mean to you?
- Being a home or a congregation that receives new people changes that home or congregation. How is that hard to do? How is that a blessing?
- What is the mission field that God may be calling you to be a part of?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Acts 11:1-18.

This story is about one of the most important developments in the early church. Followers of Jesus now included Gentiles as well as Jews. There were objections from the early church believers in Judea (vv. 1-3). Peter's response was that it was not his doing, but God's. Peter was sent to the home of Cornelius (Acts 10) through a vision and an invitation from Gentiles. Interestingly, the real objection was not Peter's preaching, but his fellowship and eating with Gentiles. Establishing relationships, having fellowship, and being a guest in another's home are all hallmarks of the expanding mission field of outreach in the church, both then and now. The Gentiles end up having a similar response to the preached word by receiving the Holy Spirit as Jewish believers did in Acts 2. The believers in Judea hear all this and are silenced in a way that must have led to a repentance that turned to praise of God for what has now happened. Is there a difference in what you do and say when you are host and when you are a guest? What are those differences? Where might God be leading you to fellowship with others?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help me and all who claim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Easter faith and reach out to others with love. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Jesus tells the disciples, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). There are many ways you can show love to others through your actions and words. Loving one another is a Christian way of life. In what ways do you show love towards others? What does it look like when loving one another becomes a way of life?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Rituals hold families and faith communities together. Psalm 148 highlights a Christian ritual to give praise to the Lord. We do this in worship through praying, singing, reading scripture, and communing together. What faith related rituals do you have in your home? Create a notebook of rituals done in your home to capture these traditions as a faith heritage for future generations.



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