

FEBRUARY 18, 2018
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT



God's steadfast love is committed to us at all times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 9:8-17	God's promise to Noah
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:18-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus' temptation
Thursday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Friday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	God will provide a way out
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	Prayer for guidance
Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD.
Psalm 25:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and goodness that forgives and renews us in Christ. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

We give you thanks for this gift of food, a sign of your constant love for us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love and faithfulness remember you with mercy and lead you in right pathways. (Psalm 25)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Oh, Love, How Deep



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you made a promise to someone that was hard to keep.
- How is God's promise to us different from our promises to others?
- How is it good news to have a God who is committed to us, even when we are sinful?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 1:9-15.

Lent is a special time to focus on what God in Christ has done for us. In Genesis 9:8-17, God makes a covenant with Noah on behalf of all people and all creation. God starts over with humanity and this time promises never to destroy what God has created again (Genesis 8:21). God acknowledges the sinfulness of humanity and from now on works with a broken and sinful world to bring God's steadfast love to it. God chooses to save us in spite of our sinfulness (1 Peter 3:18). Reflect on how God chooses to show mercy to us and how that mercy is fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus (Mark 1:9-15).

Pray: Dear God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and goodness that forgives and renews us in Christ. Amen.

SERVICE



At the end of the flood story God makes a promise not to destroy the earth, including every living creature (Genesis 9:8-17). Today we know that human lifestyles endanger plant and animal life. Look at your daily routines and follow the "Three R's" of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle as a way to conserve natural resources, landfill space, and energy. Commit to ways you can practice conservation in order to protect and care for the earth and all living things.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a time to simplify our lives as a way to enjoy God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are traditional Lenten practices. Consider some of the following faith practices to become part of your daily routine: Pray daily and include the Lord's Prayer and a *Prayer for the Week*; read the Bible regularly; sit in silence for prayer and meditation; eat meals with others and include a mealttime prayer; fast by eating smaller portions or simpler foods; nurture relationships by spending time together; listen to others as you engage in conversations; give a donation of time and/or money to a service organization; and commit to daily acts of kindness.



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