

**Daily Bible Readings:**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Matthew 16:21-28	Jesus speaks of his death
Tuesday	Matthew 19:16-30	The rich young man
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-26	The apostles are persecuted
Thursday	Galatians 3:26 – 4:7	God’s children through baptism
Friday	Colossians 2:11-15, 3:1-10	Buried with Christ in baptism
Saturday	Psalms 116	O Lord, I am your servant
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

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**Scripture Verse for this Week:**

When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life. – Romans 6:4 (NCV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayer for this Week:**

“Heavenly Father, please give me trust in your care, and boldness to acknowledge your Son. Amen.” (Matt. 10:29-33)

**For Throughout the Day:**

“Lord Jesus, thank you for bearing your cross for me. Give me strength to take up my cross and follow you this day. Amen.” (Matthew 10:38)

**Mealtime Refrain:**

“In baptism we died with Christ: Now we have new life in him.” (Romans 6:8)

**A Blessing to Share:**

May the Lord show you his mercy, guard your life, and give you joy in his abounding love. Amen. (Psalm 86:2-5)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

To God who gives our daily bread, a thankful voice we raise, And pray that he who sends us food may fill our hearts with praise. Amen.



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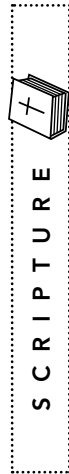
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**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share what you know or remember about the day you were baptized.
- What does it mean to you to be baptized?
- St. Paul says that we were baptized so that we would “live a new life” (Romans 6:4). How is your life different because of your baptism?

**Devotional Practices:**

Jesus warned his followers that people would experience trouble because of their faith in him. In your family devotional times this week, pray especially for Christians in other countries who suffer because they follow Jesus. Pray that both they and you may have the strength to stand up for Jesus.

**Service:**

God called Jeremiah to serve him as a prophet. This caused Jeremiah a lot of trouble, but Jeremiah was not willing or able to stop speaking the words God gave him to say. He said that God’s word was like a fire burning in his heart and his bones (Jeremiah 20:7-9). Pray for those whom God has called to preach his Word to you – your pastors and the teachers of your church. Send them a note of encouragement, or decide on a practical way you can show them your support or appreciation.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Jesus tells us that following him involves taking up our own crosses – being willing to suffer or be unpopular for doing what is right. Make small crosses from popsticks or wire and attach string or cord. Wear these during the week as a reminder of Christ’s sacrifice for us, and our call to serve him with the whole of our lives.

**From Martin Luther’s “Small Catechism”:**

What does Baptism mean for everyday living? “Because we have been baptized, we should keep on drowning the old nature we were born with; everything selfish and sinful in us has to die. This happens when day after day we are sorry for the wrong things we have done and ask God to forgive us. And the new nature God has given us in baptism should come to life day after day. We should live as new people, who do what is right and good and live with God forever.”

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