

MAY 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



We are precious in God's sight.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	A chosen people
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Hebrews 11:29-40	The faith of heroes
Friday	Lamentations 3:19-24	God's steadfast love endures
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you send us out to witness to Jesus Christ; give us confidence and courage to be your faithful witnesses. Fill us with mercy and love through Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen the body and your word strengthen our calling to be your loving and faithful witnesses in the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the steadfast love of Jesus.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



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:

- When is a time you were honored for something you did?
- What are words that you would use to describe God's people?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Peter 2:2-10.

1 Peter helps us to imagine the meaning of Christ's resurrection for our lives. Jesus is the living stone rejected by people yet "*precious in God's sight*" (v. 4). As followers of Jesus, we are living stones built into a sacred community, "*a holy priesthood*" (v. 5). The imagery in this reading is expanded to explore its spiritual depth. We are "*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*" (v. 9). This rich language and imagery all lead us to understand the treasured life we have. We are called to speak of God in Jesus Christ, the one who has brought us out of darkness and into a precious and holy light. Once we were those who had not received mercy, those who were not God's people. Now we are God's people and live lives filled with mercy and honor to be God's chosen people. Jesus' resurrection changed our lives from desperation to empowerment and joy. It is no wonder that we are to be like babes, thirsting for spiritual milk so we may grow into a life that is our inheritance and delight.

Discuss: How does being one of God's chosen people affect how you live your life?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, remind us again and again of our holy calling as your chosen people sent out to others with words of mercy and hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show mercy to someone who is feeling lonely or in pain?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "*a living stone*" and Jesus' followers "*like living stones*" to be "*built into a spiritual house.*" Gather some smooth stones. Draw a cross on a large stone and write the names of family and friends on the smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the one with the cross on it in a visible place in your home. Think or talk about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. Take a moment to look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**



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