

MAY 15, 2022  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*God's ways are not our ways.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	James 1:2-16	Trials and temptations
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's words are powerful
Friday	Proverbs 3:5-8	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the counselor

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When they heard this, 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:**

Loving God, help us to love one another and to seek to understand before we seek to be understood for the sake of Jesus Christ and the reign of God he brings. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Praise God for this gift of food and all that we have been given. Praise God! Amen.

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

May God bless you with a heart filled with mercy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Here I Am, Lord*



### 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 you feel confused and need guidance, what do you do?
- The Bible makes it clear that God's ways are not our ways. What does this mean to you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Acts 11:1-18.

Peter was telling a church of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem about what took place that led him to accept Gentiles (non-Jews) into the church. The Jerusalem church was critical of Peter. He had to give a clear, step-by-step description of what he had experienced. To discern or understand how accepting Gentiles into the church as the will of God was not easy. Peter himself had received the message three times. It was hard for Peter to grasp what had happened and it was hard for both Peter and the early church to discern the ways of God. It is still difficult for us today to understand God's ways as being fundamentally different than our ways. God's ways have never been easy for followers of Jesus. Reading the Bible, prayer, meditation, and faith-filled conversations with others in the church guide us as we seek to understand the ways of God and the path that God wants for us as followers of Jesus.

*Discuss:* What helps you be open to God's ways to guide your life?

*Pray:* **God of love and faithfulness, help us to see as you see, to judge as you judge, and to show mercy as you show mercy 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 someone God's love?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 148 calls on us and all of creation to give praise to God. *"Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created"* (v. 5). Go for a walk and look around at God's beautiful creation. When you return draw a picture of your favorite scene or make a list of God's creations you saw while on the walk. Finish by praying: **Dear God, I praise you for \_\_\_\_\_ . I thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ . In Jesus name, Amen.**



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)