

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Church Year Cycle A



THEME FOR THE WEEK:

Love your neighbor as yourself.

WEEKLY MILESTONES:



Take a moment to have each person share a recent mountain high and/or valley low in their lives.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK:



The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Romans 13:9 (NRSV)**

GOSPEL READING INTRODUCTION:



In this reading, Jesus tells his disciples what to do if another member of the church sins against them. Then he tells them that where two or three are gathered in his name he will be there among them.

GOSPEL READING:

Read: Matthew 18:15-20

Seeking reconciliation

GOSPEL READING QUESTIONS:



<p>1. In this reading, what does Jesus tell his disciples to do first if a member of the church sins against them?</p>	<p>A To get a lawyer B To get some friends and gang up on them C To go and point out the fault with just them D To post the fault on the church bulletin board</p>
<p>2. In this reading, what does Jesus tell his disciples to do next if the first approach does not work?</p>	<p>A To get a different lawyer B To get more friends and gang up on them C To file a suit in court D To take one or two others along as witnesses</p>
<p>3. In this reading, what does Jesus say should be done before treating the person like a Gentile and tax collector?</p>	<p>A To tell it to the church B To take their horse cart as compensation C To rally the community and stone them D To paint their door frame red</p>

Answer key on page 2



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GOSPEL READING DISCUSSION:



- What words stay in your mind or what ideas do you have from this reading?
- What message do you hear for us in this reading?
- How does this reading influence your thoughts, feelings, or future actions?

RELATED READINGS FOR REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTING:



Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Deuteronomy 4:5-14	Israel is favored by God
Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Leviticus 19:9-18	Living a holy life
Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding

RELATED READINGS DISCUSSION:



What similar themes or general concept did you discover in these related readings? How do they connect to the theme for the week: Love your neighbor as yourself?

HYMN OF THE WEEK:



Beloved, God's Chosen

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, (1953-2021)

Music: Robert A. Hobby, (1962-)

[Evangelical Lutheran Worship #648]



<https://youtu.be/cSOgfPnfbZs>

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of goodness and mercy, give us hearts to love and to care for others as you care for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING:

May you long for the ways of God that teach love and mercy through Jesus Christ.



Answer Key: 1-C, 2-D, 3-A