

Weekly Scripture Readings July 7, 2024

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.

Romans 2:1-11 (NRSV)

Therefore, you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. You say, 'We know that God's judgement on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.' Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgement will be revealed. For he will repay according to each one's deeds: to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

Mark 6:1-13 (NRSV)

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no

money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So, they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Psalm 48 (NRSV)

A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.
Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.

Then the kings assembled, they came on together.
As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic, they took to flight;
trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor,
as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.
As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God, which God establishes forever.

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.
Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgements.

Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers,
consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels,
that you may tell the next generation that this is God,
our God for ever and ever.
He will be our guide forever.

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 (NRSV)

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, 'Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.' So, all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years. David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David.

David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, July 8

Psalm 21
2 Samuel 5:1-10
2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Wednesday, July 10

Psalm 21
2 Samuel 5:17-25
John 7:1-9

Friday, July 12

Psalm 24
Exodus 37:1-16
Colossians 4:2-18

Tuesday, July 9

Psalm 21
2 Samuel 5:11-16
James 5:7-12

Thursday, July 11

Psalm 24
Exodus 25:10-22
Colossians 2:1-5

Saturday, July 13

Psalm 24
Numbers 10:11-36
Luke 1:57-80

Prayer for the week: Steadfast God, your prophets set the plumb line of your righteousness and truth in the midst of your people. Grant us the courage to judge ourselves against it. Straighten all that is crooked or warped within us until our hearts and souls stretch upright, blameless and holy, to meet the glory of Christ. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, July 14, are 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14 and John 15:9-17. Next week's message, "WALL-E! Love you!", will be on the passage from John and the movie WALL-E. we will show the movie on Wednesday at 6:30 and it will be available on our website. Next week is a contemporary service.

Questions to help you prepare: Why does Jesus say that the greatest love is to give your life for your friends? How is that played out in WALL-E? What do you think the humans existence is actually like on the ship? Is there love? How does WALL-E seem to bring people and robots together? Why? Why does WALL-E give of himself to everyone?

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