

Second Sunday in Lent, March 16, 2025

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in. —Theodore Roosevelt

Are you planning to travel by air this summer? Perhaps you've been invited to a wedding and your grandson wants his nana to be there. Wonderful! Except ... in less than 60 days, the TSA will expect you to produce your REAL ID card to get through security at the airport. A REAL ID card is an enhanced driver's license and if you don't have one, or if you don't have a passport, you will not get on the airplane! (Some other forms of ID are acceptable.)

Unfortunately, not all elderly people and homebound people have driver's licenses or passports. And as I write this, it is unclear as to the best way for those without either of those IDs to travel. You probably don't give much thought to how important it is for you to be able to prove you are who you say you are!

The apostle Paul addresses this in today's reading from his letter to the Christians living in ancient Philippi. He writes, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 20).

There are a little more than 190 countries in the world. We are citizens of one of them. Some people have citizenship in more than one country. I am a citizen of two countries, the USA and Canada. I have two passports.

But the apostle Paul says that it is important to remember that *our true citizenship is linked to another kingdom* — a realm where God reigns supreme and Jesus Christ is Lord of lords, the omnipotent sovereign who was present at the creation of the world (Colossians 1:15-20).

But it is hard to convince our neighbors or friends or even strangers that we are citizens of heaven when we have just treated them in a shabby and deceitful manner. If our mouths are filled with falsehoods, gossiping tongues and slanderous accusations, no one will think we are citizens of heaven, will they?

This is why we must live carefully. Perhaps this is why Paul suggests that if we have trouble knowing how to live righteously, that we simply "join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us" (v. 17).

Godly lives help us to confirm our assertion that we possess the REAL ID as citizens of heaven!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Almighty God, may I live worthy of my heavenly citizenship. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Mark 14-16
- Monday:** Numbers 1-3
- Tuesday:** Numbers 4-6
- Wednesday:** Numbers 7-10
- Thursday:** Numbers 11-14
- Friday:** Numbers 15-17
- Saturday:** Psalms 29-30

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning. —Psalm 30:5b*

Do you HERE or HEAR the DIFFERENCE?

All answers are homonyms — words that sound the same but are spelled differently. Write the homonym of the word in the space provided. Answers below.

1. TOO _____
2. FOUR _____
3. KNEW _____
4. WHOLE _____
5. HOARSE _____
6. MIGHT _____
7. COURSE _____
8. RIGHT _____
9. SOW _____
10. MALE _____


Answers to Do you HERE or HEAR the Difference?

1. two, to
2. fore, for
3. new
4. hole
5. horse
6. mite
7. coarse
8. wright, write
9. so, sew
10. mail

CRYPTOQUOTE
To climb steep hills requires a slow pace at first.

Cryptoquote

HSZPVHKBVZIV
SHAKESPEARE



In this puzzle, one letter stands for another. Here, Z is used for two A's; V is used for three E's; and H is used for two S's. Single letters, the length and formation of the words, and the fact that A=Z, V=E and H=S are all hints. See if you can decipher this quotation from William Shakespeare.

g l x o r n y h g v v k s r o o h

i v j f r i v h z h o l d k z x v z g

u r i h g .

[Use this area for scratch writing.]