

FAITH FOR SUNDAY

July 21, 2024 Year B

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: Mark 6: 30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Jesus invites his disciples to rest after their ministry, and Jesus is moved with pity for the crowds who pursue them. Our commitment to following Jesus as His disciple can be overwhelming. What is the importance of rest and renewal in ministry? What is the significance of going to a deserted place? How can we be helpful to others in ministry so that they make time for rest and renewal?

Reading I : Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the LORD. Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: "The LORD our justice."

The Lord promises to shepherd His people Israel; in this passage He describes Israel's kings as those shepherds who have misled and failed to care of the sheep. We have a loving God who cares deeply for us. What does God promise His people?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reading II: Ephesians 2: 13-18

Brothers and sisters: In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Today's reading explores the unity between human and divine and the community itself - the pre-Christian past is now a community of believers. We are brought close to Christ by His sacrifice on the cross. How do we sustain our belief and growth as a faith community? How do we do this today in an ever changing world that continues to pull away from God?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 21 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 22 ST. MARY MAGDALENE, FEAST

TUESDAY 23 WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY 24 WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 25 SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE, FEAST

FRIDAY 26 SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MEMORIAL

SATURDAY 27 WEEKDAY

reflect

What am I learning about myself in my alone time with God?

pray

Father God, help me to cling to hope during challenging time,
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

Remain in God's strength and continue to trust in His promises.