

FAITH FOR SUNDAY

September 1, 2024 Year B

Twenty-second 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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. –For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. – So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: *This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.* You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

Jesus faces the Pharisees from Jerusalem, who resist His teaching. Ritual handwashing and other rituals were aimed at keeping the Jewish people pure and holy, and apart from others. What did Jesus believe of their rituals? What did he teach them about what it means to keep one's sanctity undefiled? What are we putting out into the world?

Reading I: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: "Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

Moses, the divinely sanctioned lawgiver, comments on God's laws and provides final instructions. Keeping the law given by God is to remain engaged in the intimate relationship that God desires and fosters with the people by virtue of giving the law. Because of their divine origin, what does he tell the people not to do? What benefit does keeping the Lord's wisdom do for the whole world?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Reading II: James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

In this passage, what does St. James associate with gift-giving? The “word of truth” recalls the law of God celebrated in and commented on in today’s first reading and points to the incarnate word of truth - Jesus. What does the Word have the power to do, if welcomed openly? Can you see how St. James associates actions that care for those in need with true religion?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 2 WEEKDAY

TUESDAY 3 SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL

WEDNESDAY 4 WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 5 WEEKDAY

FRIDAY 6 WEEKDAY

SATURDAY 7 WEEKDAY

reflect

What in my own life can stand in the way of a life of holiness?

pray

Father God, thank you for the grace you give me to live a life worthy of You, Through Christ our Lord, Amen

live

Plant seeds of goodness that will bear fruit in others.