

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—AUGUST 25, 2019

First Reading — Isaiah 66:18-21 18

“For I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their cereal offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm PS 117:1, 2

R.(Mk 16:15) **Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Praise the LORD all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

R. **Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

R. **Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Second Reading — Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 5

And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ... ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Gospel Reading — Luke 13:22-30 22

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And some one said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us.’ He will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!’ ²⁸ There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. ²⁹ And men will come from east and west,

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — Isaiah 66:18-21 18

1. What responsibility do we have today, individually or as a community, to go too far off lands and declare his glory?

Second Reading — Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 5

2. What experience have you had with the Lord's discipline?
3. What do you feel are the characteristics of the Lord's discipline?

Gospel Reading — Luke 13:22-30 22

4. What is the most encouraging concept in this passage? The most disturbing?
5. If a young person asked you, "What does it mean to strive to enter by the narrow door?" What would you tell them?
6. Why was it not sufficient to simply eat and drink with Jesus, and allow him to teach? What more does he want?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.