

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —AUGUST 16, 2020

First Reading — Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

¹Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. . . . ⁶"And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

R. (4) **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

R. **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

R. **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!

May God bless us,

and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

R. **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Second Reading — Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . . ²⁹For the gifts and the call of God are

irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

Gospel Reading — Matthew 15:21-28

²¹And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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 —

1. How should our understanding of God's inclusiveness affect the way we relate to people, and appreciate our faith?

Second Reading —

2. What makes this passage an excellent presentation of the Good News?
3. If the Trinity has gone to such lengths to include all men in salvation, how should it affect our participation in spreading the Gospel?

Gospel Reading —

4. Describe what you think the disciples were feeling.
5. What was there about the Canaanite woman's faith that compelled Jesus to label it "great" in magnitude?
6. How does one acquire great faith in Christ?

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.