



The Word  
**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*August 16, 2026*

***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
  
- ✦ *Then: “In the name of the Father and of the Son . . .”*

***The Word of God***

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Matthew 15: 21-28

Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed. The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants—all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection. continued. . . .

***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** In what ways does Jesus help you everyday?

**Teens:** In what ways do you show your faith?

**Adults:** How persistent are you in your prayer life? When have you felt the healing power of Christ?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God’s word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God’s word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.

- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God's nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
 your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
 As we leave here today,  
 be with us in all our comings and goings,  
 and in all that we say and do.  
 We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
 Amen.