

Preparing For Sunday

Below are the appointed readings for this week to prepare you for Sunday, August 16th.

First Reading: 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

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, all who keep the Sabbath and do not
profane it and hold fast my covenant— these 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.

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Psalm: Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations
on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.

May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

[Paul writes:] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel:Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.